





## High-level talks slated for Amman economic summit

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Senior U.S. officials are gearing up for intensive discussions in the next fortnight with key participants in the upcoming Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit in order to finalise the charters of three key institutions that are expected to be launched at the conference opening in Amman on Oct. 29.

The institutions were called for by the Casablanca Declaration, issued after the first regional economic conference of its kind, when Israeli and Arab governments and business people held unprecedented talks about regional economic development.

They are the Middle East Development Bank, the Regional Business Council, and the Regional Tourism Board. A fourth institution, the Executive Secretariat, is already operational in Casablanca, the venue of the first Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit.

The upcoming meetings will take place in Cairo, Amman, Rome and Madrid to prepare the groundwork for the three-day economic summit in the Jordanian capital. U.S. officials are hoping that the Amman Economic Summit in the wake of the Middle East peace process "can serve as an impetus for economic change" through private-public partnership.

At the Cairo meeting, due to end on August 31, participants are expected to finalise the charter and bylaws of the Regional Tourism Council, formally known as the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association (MEMTTA).

Judith Barnett, a senior adviser at Department of Commerce, will take part in a meeting, tentatively scheduled for early next month in Amman, for the task force charged with drawing up the charter and bylaws of the Regional Business Council. The Council is envisaged to be a private, non-profit association which seeks to promote and facilitate regional trade and investment.

Under-secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs Joan Spero is also scheduled to hold talks with Jordanian government leaders on the Amman Economic Summit and other bilateral investment issues.

The Steering Committee which oversees the final preparations for the Amman meeting, which is expected to attract as many as 1,000 participants from about 60 countries, is scheduled to hold a session next month, probably in Madrid. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Toni Verstandig is expected to again lead the U.S. delegation.

Susan Levine, senior vice president for Policy and Investment Development at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, is scheduled to travel to Rome around the middle of next month for a crucial meeting of the task force on the Middle East Development Bank, which reportedly still faces lingering opposition from some European and Gulf states.

Where these institutions will be headquartered is still undetermined, reliable informants said, although there has been talk that the proposed bank may end up in Cairo, the business council in the West Bank and the tourism board in a North African state, possibly Tunis. The Executive Secretariat will continue to be in Casablanca in recognition of Morocco's hosting of the first Middle East/North Africa Summit.

Because of the importance of tourism to the region and the large part it already plays in the economies of the countries of the region, the Regional Tourism Board is the least controversial of the institutions which will be launched at the Amman meeting.

Jordan's situation is a case in point. In the year since signing the peace treaty with Israel, Jordan has seen "a mini-boom" in tourism — about 50,000 from Israel alone; and at least 12 international hotels are being built or proposed in various parts of the country, particularly in Aqaba, Petra and Amman.

Tourism receipts are expected to total \$1 billion by the end of next year, according to one Jordanian estimate. The tourism board will seek to promote the tourism industry in the region through educational training and through establishment of a standard rating system American AAA hotel rating standard.

In an interview, Judith Barnett explained that the functions of the proposed Regional Business Council have yet to be determined, although it is generally agreed that it will serve as a "communicator" of information between companies throughout the region on trade shows, trade missions, proposed tariff changes, etc.

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## Barzan Tikriti assails Uday, defector

LONDON (Agencies) — Barzan Ibrahim Al Tikriti, half brother of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, has deepened the family rift in Baghdad by launching an open attack on the leader's eldest son and heir-apparent Uday.

"If everyone knew their own size and ability, many problems would be avoided. The direction towards the inheritance of power in Iraq is unacceptable," Mr. Tikriti said in an interview to be published on Thursday.

Mr. Tikriti, himself often rumoured to be a potential defector, compared Uday to the "greedy, unfit for power" relatives who defected to Jordan in early August but warned the West not to count on President Saddam, even as his family fortress crumbles.

"He won't run away from responsibility. If he relinquishes rule things will only get worse. Iraq needs someone to be a vortex of power, someone who can gather people around him. The regime won't fall and he remains in place."

Mr. Tikriti, who is believed by Western officials to control much of Iraq's finances from the Swiss banking centre, lashed out at both the family members who have already fled Baghdad and at President Saddam's controversial son.

Fear of Uday was believed to play a role in the stunning defection of an entire wing of President Saddam's family, including his son-in-law and former close aide Hussein Kamel Hassan.

The paper quoted Mr. Tikriti as saying that Uday "has no better than Hussein Kamel and that both are greedy, unfit for power and unaware of their limitations."

Iraqi opposition leaders were hoping to meet in London next week and want Hussein Kamel to fly in from Amman to attend. The Foreign Office said it had not yet received a request for a visa and would not say if one would be granted.

Many of the key players in the disparate Iraqi opposition movement, while welcoming a split in President Saddam's inner circle, said they had no plans to attend the proposed meeting.

Their reluctance has cast doubt on chances for a successful, consolidated push to topple President Saddam. "Saddam has problems but I wouldn't write him off yet," said a British official.

Mr. Tikriti dismissed long-running speculation that he too was about to abscond but did not rule out opposing from within. "Iraq is not a monarchy," he was quoted by the newspaper as saying. "If I oppose, I will do it in my own special way."

Mr. Tikriti also said Hussein Kamel was "a major cause of the tragedy" now facing Iraq, accusing the defector of "leading opposition within the Iraqi government, to the U.N. Special Commission" in charge of dismantling Iraq.

Mr. Tikriti accused Hussein Kamel of being an "extremist and fanatic" who had called on the government "not to cooperate with the United Nations."

He also "ordered Iraqi soldiers to open fire on U.N. inspectors in mission in Iraq in 1992," Mr. Tikriti said.

He charged that Hussein Kamel wanted to become president. Hussein Kamel had only been "a driver in the presidential cortege before being promoted by the president to positions he doesn't merit. Now he's looking to become head of state."

Security on the Turkish side of the porous 330-kilometre border has increased in the past week because of clashes between the PKK and Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq.

Troops with binoculars scanned the border in Turkey's Sirtak province on Thursday as Super Cobra helicopters hovered overhead, witnesses said.

The PKK, fighting for independence or autonomy in southeast Turkey, last week emerged from its mountain camps in north Iraq to attack targets held by Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). The Turkish Kurd rebels are apparently trying to increase their influence in the KDP-run region.

The Iraqi Kurd group denied that a meeting it held with Turkish civilian and military officials on Thursday was a prelude to joint action against the PKK in north Iraq.

"The people in northern Iraq have been behind us during these attacks and it is something we have to sort out ourselves," the KDP's Turkey representative, Safer Dizeyee, told Reuters.

Turkey has sent thousands of troops into northern Iraq against PKK bases there twice this year. More than 17,500 people have died inside Turkey in the PKK's 11-year insurgency.

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Department of Defence and State released the following statement about the upcoming delivery by the U.S. of humanitarian supplies to help the Kurds of northern Iraq.

The Department of Defence and State have announced plans to move excess DOD generators to help the Kurdish people of northern Iraq. The six gas turbine generators will be airlifted from Tompkins Barracks, Schweitzing, Germany to the town of Sumail in the Iraqi governorate of Dohuk by Sept. 30, 1995.

The turbines, each capable of generating up to 625 kilowatts of power, will be hooked into the existing power grid which has been offline since the Iraqi government cut power to the region in 1993. The hope is to restore power to water pump stations, hospitals and clinics, and possibly schools throughout the area.

In addition to the generators, DOD will also provide five U.S. Army personnel to assist in the installation and training of the Kurdish technicians who will operate and maintain the units. That phase of the operation is expected to last four to six weeks.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Humanitarian and Refugee Affairs (HRA) Patricia L. Irvin said the Department, in cooperation with other government agencies and within the limits of its resources, understands and strives to fulfill its responsibility to help alleviate suffering throughout the world. She said the Humanitarian Assistance Programme (HAP) is often the most economical means available to local charitable organisations to transport donated goods to foreign countries for humanitarian purposes.

Under the 1986 DOD Authorisation Act, HRA is authorised to transport non-lethal excess property, relief supplies and privately donated cargo to meet humanitarian needs worldwide. In fiscal year 1994, HAP completed 72 humanitarian shipments to more than 39 countries with an estimated acquisition value of \$66.5 million.

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## Turkey says 22 rebels killed on Iraq border

DIYARBAKIR (Agencies) — Turkish security forces have killed 22 Kurdish rebel infiltrators near the mountainous border with Iraq, security officials said on Friday.

The Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas were killed in a clash in Hakkari province on Thursday after entering Turkey, the regional governor's office in the city of Diyarbakir said.

One pro-government village guard died and two members of the security forces were wounded, the officials said.

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## Rabin faces billion-dollar suit over Egyptian PoW massacres

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian lawyer is suing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for a billion dollars in damages following the massacre of Egyptian PoWs by Israeli troops in two wars.

Hanan Subhi Al Shami, 32, is one of three Egyptian lawyers who have raised separate suits against Rabin after reports that Israeli soldiers killed up to 900 Egyptian soldiers who had put down their arms in the 1956 and 1967 wars.

"Any Egyptian citizen who loves his country has to be moved by what happened," Ms. Shami told AFP. "These were my countrymen. It was a terrible thing."

Ms. Shami filed the case last week on her own behalf — "I have undergone harm in the case since these were Egyptian soldiers," she said — claiming one billion dollars for the victims' widows and orphans.

But within days, she said, families of PoWs who never came back from the wars contacted her to add their names as plaintiffs. "A lot of them wanted to join," she said, adding a final list had not yet been submitted to the court.

A court in the northern Nile Delta town of Dammanhur, where Ms. Shami lives and practices, will begin hearing the case on Sept. 10.

President Ezer Weizman is also listed as a defendant along with Mr. Rabin. If she wins, under Egyptian law police could seize Israeli government property in Cairo.

Egypt could in theory even arrest Mr. Rabin the moment he sets foot in Egypt, if the plaintiffs filed criminal charges against him for not paying the damages, legal sources said.

Ms. Shami has outlived the Israeli embassy in Cairo of the suit. "They ought to send lawyers for the defence," she said.

Israel ruled out on Monday prosecuting those responsible for the massacres, saying Israeli law put a 20-year statute of limitations on the crime. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has called on Israel to bring the authors of the atrocities to trial.

"By international law these are crimes that do not disappear with time," said Ms. Shami.

Ms. Shami said she had spoken to numerous PoWs who witnessed Israeli atrocities during the 1967 war and who she intended to bring to court to testify.

The Israelis rolled tanks over lines of PoWs. They forced others into underground bunkers which they sealed up until they suffocated or starved to death," Ms. Shami said.

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## Lebanon ousts Greenpeace ship

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A Lebanese navy boat forced a Greenpeace ship out of Beirut port on Friday because the vessel had called on Israel, the group's spokesman said.

"Lebanese security forces cut the moorings of the Altair and navy boat escorted it out of territorial waters," said Fuad Hamdan.

The Altair's captain Joel Steward, an American, had said shortly after it docked: "We are not moving" from here until we get an official written reason for our departure."

Capt. Steward was accompanied by a crew of 18 people from Japan, India, Canada, Italy, Tunisia, Holland and Lebanon.

The Altair arrived from Cyprus the same day and was at first authorised to dock. The previous weekend, it was in Israel and before that in Turkey.

Lebanon started peace talks with Israel in October 1991 but the negotiations have been stalled.

Greenpeace is on a "Mediterranean with the Pacific" tour to campaign against French and Chinese nuclear testing and environmental problems in the area, notably charges of Italian waste dumping during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

The government, which requested an Israeli investigation and called for the guilty to be tried, has not taken a position on compensation for victims' families and has not commented on the pending court cases.

Further complicating matters are unprecedented PKK attacks over the past week against KDP bases along the border with Turkey, undermining security and stability in the area.

The PKK's raids were aimed at sabotaging an August 11 peace accord between Iraqi Kurds which could restrict its movements in the region from where its guerrillas infiltrate into southeastern Turkey.

"To achieve progress, Washington and Ankara may have to request European backing," a PUK official said, specifying that the fate of Saddam and the PKK's role will "determine medium-term developments in the region."

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## 22 rebels border

The PKK, fighting for independence or autonomy in southeast Turkey, last week sent 22 rebels to the border with Iraq. The rebels, who are mostly Kurds, are reportedly trying to influence the Iraqi government. The Iraqi Kurdish government, which is fighting against the Iraqi government, has been accused of supporting the PKK. The PKK has been fighting against the Turkish government for years.

## ransport n Iraq

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Humanitarian Affairs, John F. Williams, said that the Iraqi government has been accused of supporting the PKK. The PKK has been fighting against the Turkish government for years. The Iraqi government has been accused of supporting the PKK. The PKK has been fighting against the Turkish government for years.

## Is spark Lebanon

The sources said the men, all of them under custody, include the purported leader of the group, identified as Asem Mohammad Daher, alias Abu Mohammad Al Maqdesi. Bayat Al Imam followers believe only themselves to be the "true followers" of the Islamic faith and do not attend mosque prayers or schools because they reject the entire system, according to the sources.

## UNRWA workers to strike over reduction of services

By Ghafar Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — UNRWA workers at the agency's five areas of operation will go on a general strike Monday in protest against the reduction of services the UN organization offers to Palestinian refugees.

UNRWA employees sources said that the three-hour strike will be part of a stepped up campaign against the agency's failure to respond to their demands concerning rising cost of living, ending of service compensations, health, education and social services.

The strike will also be aimed at voicing employees' rejection of what the sources called "oppressive managerial policies" exercised by the agency.

UNRWA administrations sources were not available for comment on Friday.

"The worsening working conditions have a negative impact on the employee's productivity. Employees are living under psychological pressure," one source said referring to the widespread fears among UNRWA workers over job security.

The sources said that UNRWA has refused to grant workers salary increases to enable them to cope with the rising cost of living and is adamant in its

rejection to negotiate end of service compensations compatible with those offered by the Jordanian government.

The employees sources said they are entitled to retirement compensation only after 30 years of service and have been demanding that they be granted this right after working for the agency for 25 years.

Describing as "incorrect" the agency's policies towards them, the employees alleged that "UNRWA administration exercises repressive measures."

"The agency hushed aside all our demands," one source said.

UNRWA's establishment was based on an international decision to serve Palestinian refugees, whose "problem has not been resolved yet," said the sources.

UNRWA should not cut down on its services before the refugees problem is resolved, the sources said.

UNRWA employees said they are also concerned about the "poor" health and education services offered by the agency as a result of the programmes cuts.

"Medications (at the agency's health centres) have been in short supply," one source said, referring to cuts in the educational services such as the recent decision to close down the educational sciences college

despite protests from the employees.

The strikers will demand the reversal of UNRWA's decision to shut down the college, rejecting arguments that the decision was prompted by budget constraints.

The sources argued that the case should have been discussed with the Jordanian government and the Palestinian authority.

The strike will come ahead of a three-day visit to the Kingdom by UNRWA's General Commissioner, Ilter Turkman.

Mr. Turkman will meet with Jordanian officials over UNRWA operations and is expected to open a new school in Baq'aa camp that was financed by Japan.

UNRWA employees are planning to meet with Mr. Turkman over their demands but are sceptical that the meeting will produce any positive results.

UNRWA employs 20,000 people of whom the majority are Palestinian refugees who benefit from the agency's health, education, and social services which have been reduced during the past years.

The agency's largest operations are in Jordan, which hosts the highest number of Palestinian refugees.

## Delays and confusion snag NGO meetings in Beijing

By Caroline Faraj  
Special to the Jordan Times

BEIJING — With two days left for the opening of the Fourth U.N. Women's Conference, the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) forum has so far failed to discuss the draft international plan of action, which will serve as a basis for the conference.

Sources attributed this delay to the large number of participants who totalled 30,000 and to the host of different activities being carried out to prepare for the conference, which starts here on Monday.

Sources said 361 workshops and symposia were held over the past three days ahead of this major conference.

Participants discussed such issues as human rights, peace and human security, education, health and economy, politics and government, environment information, religion, science and technology, and art and culture, in addition to youth concerns.

The discussions were dominated by such topics as democracy, human rights, public freedoms and impact of wars on women, in addition to health and environmental issues, the sources said.

Amid chaotic last minute preparations for the NGO forum, Chinese security authorities warned that no demonstrations will be tolerated nor any unscheduled meetings allowed, according to the article.

Sources said Chinese security forces confiscated films and posters, which advertised respect for human rights. Sources described the move by the Chinese security forces as an obstacle to the operations of the NGO forum.

Human rights could also fall outside government-approved protest topics, according to the Guardian. The paper reported that China rejects attempts to widen debate beyond the right to food and shelter as meddling in domestic affairs.

Despite this atmosphere, Arab liaison officers held a co-ordinating meeting Thursday, during which they held 11 Arab workshops to discuss public freedoms, education, health, culture in addition to other common Arab concerns.

The Arab team, which includes representatives from 22 Arab countries, will not be able to discuss issues as separate entities but as

part of the non-aligned movement member states.

Despite the Chinese government's preparations to host the conference, it seems the government could not ensure suitable housing for participants in the NGO forum.

The Jordanian delegation had earlier booked into newly built apartments in Huairou, but could not use them because they were not

## Princess Basma calls for unification of Arab women's standpoints

HUAIROU — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday chaired a meeting of the coordinating committee at Huairou during which they discussed the need for reaching a mechanism through which coordination among Arab NGOs participating in the conference may be ensured. Urging participants to act as one team, Princess Basma said the conference represents a golden opportunity for Arab women to put forth their ideas and proposals. Interact with other delegations, and to learn about their views and problems and help ensure a better status for women in the world.

Princess Basma said the conference was 'bound to give impetus to women's drive to attain full equality, social justice, social and economic benefits and other gains in the century to come.

The Princess also chaired a meeting for the official Jordanian delegation and exchanged views with them on several topics which will be raised at the conference, such as poverty and its impact on women.

Princess Basma will make a presentation on the impact of poverty on women, supported by facts and figures on Arab and international levels.

Alternative bookings were made for the delegation by Princess Basma.

Sources told the Jordan Times the Chinese government wanted to reap a high profit out of this major gathering, and that it had doubled hotels and apartment rates without improving services to the visiting delegates.

## Ten to be charged with attempted sabotage

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 10 people will be referred to the State Security Court this week to be formally charged with plotting bombing attacks in the latest case of attempted sabotage in Jordan, judicial sources said Friday.

The group, known as Bayat Al Imam (pledge of allegiance to the leader), was uncovered before it could actually carry out any attacks, said the sources.

The sources said the men, all of them under custody, include the purported leader of the group, identified as Asem Mohammad Daher, alias Abu Mohammad Al Maqdesi.

Bayat Al Imam followers believe only themselves to be the "true followers" of the Islamic faith and do not attend mosque prayers or schools because they reject the entire system, according to the sources.

During their interrogation the suspects maintained their sense of supremacy and insisted on their belief that everyone outside their circle was a "non-believer," the source said.

The sources said the suspects, most of them under 30 years, had confessed to having plotted subversion and explosives were found in the possession of some of them. The charge sheet against them includes illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials with the purpose of using them illegally.

According to the sources, some of the suspects are unemployed and several of

them are illiterate.

The 13 suspects join at least eight others expected to be tried in separate cases when the State Security Court resumes sessions in September following a month-long holiday of the judiciary.

Among the others are two Jordanians accused of shooting and wounding a French diplomat in March.

Others include members of two groups who were apprehended in the course of plotting subversion, according to the sources.

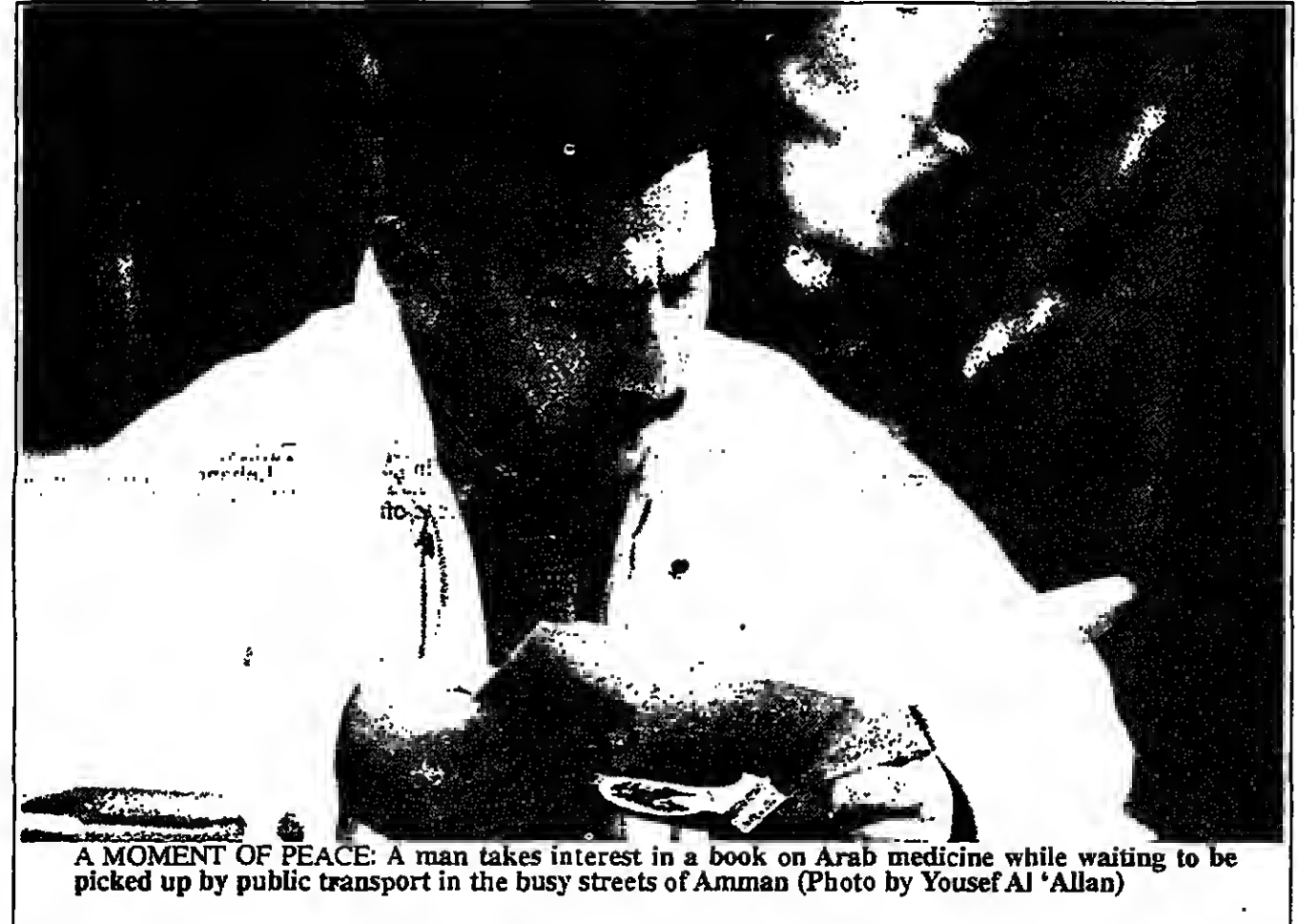
Salem Abdullah and Ahmad Qassem, both 22, the two accused in the Feb. 24 attack on Gilles Heine, a second secretary at the French embassy, will be charged with attempted murder, plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possessing illegal arms and explosives.

No immediate detail was available on whether the two assailants belonged to any organised group or what motivated them to stage the attack.

Reports in the local press said at that time that the two belonged to an extremist group which opposed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October and resented Israelis visiting Jordan.

It was one of the rare attacks on foreigners in Jordan and security sources described it as an isolated incident.

Also pending are charges against at least six other people, all of them also suspected of plotting subversion in Jordan.



A MOMENT OF PEACE: A man takes interest in a book on Arab medicine while waiting to be picked up by public transport in the busy streets of Amman (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## British Council announces GCE results

By Ica Wahbeh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A British Council press release has announced the results of the General Certificate for Education (GCE) exams in May/June 1995, with pass rates as high as 75 per cent.

Of 748 candidates who sat for the examinations, a pass rate of 73.9 per cent was registered at the Advanced Level (A-Level) and of 75.3 per cent at the Ordinary Level (O-Level).

According to Rula

Kawar, manager of culture and exams at the council, students sitting for these exams usually come from five schools: International Orthodox, Ahliyah for Girls, Bishop, Rawdat Al Ma'arif and Abdul Hamid Sharaf.

The New English and the Baccalaureat schools also hold International General Certificate for School Education (IGCSE) exams on their premises.

In Great Britain, O-Level students are the 11th graders while the A-Level students are usually 13th graders, that is, a

year after tawjihi. That is not the case in Jordan, though. Students taking their exams at the British Council, according to Ms. Kawar, are all 11th graders.

For the Ministry of Education to equate the GCE with tawjihi, it is required that a student pass two A-Level and six O-Level exams. But as the equivalent does not grant a grade for those wishing to study engineering or medicine this is not enough and so, says Ms. Kawar, students prefer to wait another year to sit for

tawjihi as well.

This being the case, the question is why students would still want to do all this amount of work and exert all this effort.

According to Ms. Kawar, "many parents think GCE is more challenging and has more accreditation than tawjihi, it could give more chances abroad."

Yet most GCE students nowadays choose to stay and study in the Kingdom or go to the American University of Beirut as fees abroad are high.

## Television, radio, press to be integrated into one information service

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Khaled Karaki Friday announced that separate offices of Jordan News Agency, Jordan Television and Radio Jordan in all governorates will unite into single news information offices.

Dr. Karaki said that the unification of these offices to be named 'information offices' will have benefits in terms of providing the public with easily accessible information as well as in organising informational services to the press.

The ministry aims at conveying information services to all regions of the Kingdom serving all sectors, added Dr. Karaki.

The ministry has started studying the status of Petra and Jordan Television offices operating abroad before uniting their media services, the minister said.

The unified offices overseas will not only provide information to the local public but will also help Jordan maintain constant contact with Arab countries in dealing with issues on several levels and in different fields, especially in matters of mutual concern, said the minister.

The minister said these unified offices will be linked to satellites so that their services can reach the widest possible audiences around the globe.

## Chambers of Commerce pursue contacts for MENA economic summit

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) has been in contact with chambers of commerce and industry in countries with commercial ties with Jordan to call for their participation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference in October, according to the federation's chairman Haidar Murad.

As part of its contribution to the October conference the federation has held discussions with legislative and executive authorities for the amendment of laws and legislations governing economic and financial matters on matters relating to the investment climate in the country, Mr. Murad said in a statement Friday.

The federation, said Mr. Murad, appreciates His

Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's call, made within his address Wednesday to representatives of private and public sectors participating in the MENA conference, to all concerned parties to consider human resources as the central and focal point in all their efforts towards socio-economic development at the local and regional levels.

Mr. Murad praised his federation's efforts, making mention of the FJCC's role in the preparatory committee for the MENA conference chaired by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali 'Abul Ragheh.

In his address Wednesday the Crown Prince urged participants to define their priorities and work out well-planned proposals for the economic summit.

## CONDOLENCES

Attiyah and Lucy Aslou announce with deep regret the death of their beloved mother

Jamileh Kawak Aslou

who passed away on Thursday at the age of 91.

Condolences will be accepted at her home in Shmeisani next to Al Raed Al Arabi school, today and tomorrow.

May God Bless Her Soul

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES EXHIBITIONS

- \* Works of graphic art by several artists at the South Gallery.
- \* Photography show 'Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hodiab.
- \* Display of painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi.
- \* 'Early Morning Scribbles' by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and 'Late Night Scribbles' by Amin Al Basha and artist Ali Bermamet.
- \* Sculpture by Rajwa Bint Ali at the Open Air Sculpture workshop.
- \* Ceramic shop at the Lower Gardens.

#### SEMINAR

- \* "A Reading in the Old Syrian Culture" by Imad Sa'd at the Phoenix Gallery of the Culture and Art at 7.00 pm.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- \* Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman.
- \* Exhibition of Egyptian products at the Amman International Auto Show, Airport Road.

#### \*Works by contemporary artists at the Central Gallery.

- \* 3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khaldi.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, Sri Lanka sign initial trade agreement

Amman (Petra) — Jordan and Sri Lanka Thursday signed an initial trade agreement under which both countries will exchange vegetables and fruit as a first step towards expanding bilateral trade cooperation. The agreement was signed for Jordan by President of the Jordanian Society for Exporters of Vegetables and Fruit Karim Haddadin and his Sri Lankan counterpart. Under the agreement Jordan will export cauliflower, grapes, apples, and almonds to Sri Lanka and will import Asian fruits which are not available in Jordan.

Yemeni minister arrives for trade, supply talks

Amman (Petra) — Yemeni Minister of Supply and Trade Mohammad Ahmad Afandi arrived Friday at the head of a Yemeni delegation on a several-day official visit to Jordan. In an arrival statement Dr. Afandi said he will meet with Supply and Trade and Industry Ministers Adel Qudah and Ali 'Abul Ragheh to discuss food subsidy policies, customs exemptions and facilitation of the flow of exports between Yemen and Jordan.



## IRA 'disappointed' with Britain on ceasefire day

DUBLIN (R) — The IRA voiced "deepening disappointment" Friday that its year-old ceasefire had failed to win its political arm, Sinn Féin, a place at all-party Northern Ireland peace talks.

The guerrillas said in a statement one year to the day after they silenced their guns that British Prime Minister John Major had failed to grasp an opportunity for a political settlement.

Yet the statement made no reference to any possible resumption of a 25-year war against British rule which the guerrillas halted last Sept. 1 to try to win a reunited Ireland through political dialogue.

"Regrettably, and after a full year, this opportunity has not been grasped by the British government. It is a matter of concern that the British have succeeded only in preventing movement towards a resolution," the guerrillas said.

"The failure of John Major's government to face up to its responsibilities is the source of deepening disappointment to all those who seek a just and lasting settlement," it said.

The IRA did not mention moves by Britain and Ireland to set up an international commission to deal with the surrender of IRA and Protestant loyalist guerrilla arms, the issue which has brought the year-old peace process to a standstill.

Mr. Major and his Irish counterpart, John Bruton, are expected to propose setting up the body at summit talks in Britain next Wednesday called to breathe new life into what they say is the best ever opportunity for a settlement.

Sinn Féin said Thursday that it would reject such a body if it turned out to be another attempt by Britain to

disarm the IRA and loyalists before an overall political settlement had been negotiated by all parties to the conflict.

Britain and Ireland hope that the internationalisation of the arms issue may break the deadlock caused by the guerrillas' refusal to hand over any arms until the shape of a new "agreed Ireland" is worked out at the conference table.

The Irish Times reported that former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, President Bill Clinton's Ireland advisor, had been asked to head the commission and had tentatively agreed.

There was no independent confirmation of the report, which would bring Washington directly into the Anglo-Irish peace process for the first time.

Northern Ireland's unionist parties, representing the views of the 60 per cent Protestant majority which wants the province to stay British, insist that they will never sit down with Sinn Féin while the IRA holds on to its arms.

The IRA arsenal includes ground-to-air missiles and semtex explosive which Britain and the Unionists fear could be used to resume the war against Britain anywhere in the world if the guerrillas were not satisfied at the outcome of peace talks.

"Amongst other diversions, London is using the Unionists' political intransigence as an excuse for its own refusal to move," the IRA statement said.

"Irish Republicans recognise that a lasting peace settlement must involve all the Irish people and will require a democratic accommodation among all the people of this island."

It was the guerrillas' second statement since its Aug.

31, 1994 declaration of a "complete cessation of hostilities."

Last November the IRA issued a statement disowning a fatal robbery to the border town of Newry which it blamed on a maverick IRA unit. One postal worker was killed, the only fatality directly linked to guerrilla violence in nine years.

Meanwhile several hundred Irish Republican Army supporters launched mid-night protests throughout Northern Ireland to coincide with the first anniversary of the IRA cease-fire.

The anniversary has put a focus on the dashed hopes of quick political progress and the risk that the cease-fire could break down as a result.

Peace activists provided a poignant reminder Thursday of the cost of Northern Ireland's violence. An electronic billboard in a main South Belfast square displayed each of the nearly 3,200 names of people killed during the past quarter-century of "troubles."

This time last year Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams declared to a crowd of cheering Catholics that the IRA was lowering its guns to create space for peace negotiations.

The disillusionment and bitterness of Adams supporters went on display as protesters marched at midnight or shortly before to British army bases in Belfast, the second-largest city, Londonderry, and other Catholic parts of this British-ruled land.

No serious injuries were reported as protesters carrying "all party peace talks now" placards faced off with police in riot gear at several venues.

Sinn Féin councilors stepped in as tempers flared, ordering children to stop

throwing stones at police even as adults shouted abuse at the generally impassive lines of officers.

"People are extremely disappointed and distressed that a year after the IRA's courageous decision, the British still refuse to accept our right to play an equal part in democratic life," Adams said as he marched down the main thoroughfare in Catholic West Belfast.

In Omagh, 100 kilometres west of Belfast, police arrested one protester late Thursday and dragged others off the main street after they staged a sit-down protest and tried to scale the perimeter fence of an army base.

Earlier, protesters in Dublin scaled the fence at the British embassy there and briefly chained themselves to a railing before Irish Police forced them back out.

Britain insists that the IRA commit itself to disarm before Sinn Féin enters negotiations with pro-British Protestant parties. Those parties deeply distrust the Sinn Féin-IRA movement despite the truce.

Mr. Adams said he hopes the Wednesday summit near London between Mr. Major and Mr. Bruton will resolve the deadlock.

"The summit between Mr. Bruton and Mr. Major is key to ensuring that none of us slip back into the situation that we've just come out of," Mr. Adams said, noting that otherwise he could not "see a way out of this crisis."

Spokesmen for loyalist paramilitary groups, which stopped killing Catholics in mid-October, said Thursday they were willing to disarm if the Catholic-based IRA made the commitment first.



Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams addresses peaceful protesters gathered at a police station in West Belfast on the first anniversary of the ceasefire in Northern Ireland (AFP photo)

## DNA identifies last czar's bones

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bones unearthed in a shallow grave are beyond doubt those of Czar Nicholas II, DNA experts announced, clearing the way for the ceremonial burial of the Russian emperor executed 77 years ago by a revolutionary firing squad.

But the three-month U.S.-Russian investigation did not deal with another vexing question: did Czar Nicholas' daughter, Princess Anastasia, somehow escape the Bolsheviks' bullets?

Army Lt. Col. Victor W. Weeden, who runs the DNA laboratory for the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, told a news conference Thursday of the results of the DNA testing.

"A great murder mystery spanning most of the decade is solved," he said.

Agreed Pavel Ivanov, Russia's premier DNA scientist: "Beyond any reasonable doubt, the remains are those of Czar Nicholas and his family."

Col. Weeden said DNA from the bones perfectly matched DNA taken from the skeleton of Czar Nicholas' younger brother, George, who died at age 28 of tuberculosis in 1899. His skeleton was exhumed from a royal crypt last year.

The last of the ruling Romanovs were executed in 1918. The bodies were dumped into a pool of sulfuric acid 20 miles (32 kilometres) outside of the Ural Mountain city of Yekaterinburg.

The grave was located by a Russian geologist and a Moscow film-maker in

1979. Twelve years later, the bone fragments were unearthed.

Investigators identified them as the remains of the czar, the Czarina Alexandra and three of their five children, as well as their doctor, valet, cook and maid. No trace was found of one daughter — either Anastasia or Marie — and the sickly son, Alexis.

If the DNA results are accepted as conclusive, church and state authorities in Russia will have to decide whether to rebury the remains at Yekaterinburg or in St. Petersburg, the final resting place of Romanov czars and empresses for more than 200 years. And church authorities will also have to decide whether to canonise the royal family as martyrs.

The burial had been scheduled for March in St. Petersburg, but delayed to allow the new investigation.

"We'd like a proper Christian burial," Prince Rostislav Romanov, a London investment banker and grandson of Czar Nicholas, told historian Robert Massie, author of a forthcoming book on the royal Romanov family.

The new evidence did not satisfy all skeptics. Emigre Eugene Magerovsky, a retired Russian military intelligence officer, interrupted the news conference to say he was suspicious of how the bones "suddenly" came to light during the Soviet era.

"The Soviets have always been masters of all kinds of shenanigans," he said.

He suggested the investigators may have been given two bones from the same corpse, in which case the DNA would have had to match.

Col. Weeden ruled that out. "What we have here is a lot of evidence saying this is the czar, besides the DNA itself," he said.

Checking the bones against Prince George's became necessary because an earlier British DNA analysis could identify them as Czar Nicholas' with only 98.5 percent certainty.

A mutation in the DNA had prevented a precise match with DNA drawn from two of Czar Nicholas' distant maternal relatives — the Countess Xenia Cheremeteff-Sfiri, of Paris and Athens, and the Duke of Fife, of Scotland.

But the investigation stayed away from the Anastasia mystery. Since the grave yielded bones from only three of the five daughters, left unresolved was whether Anastasia, 17 at the time, or Marie, 19, might have survived, along with Alexis, 13.

Over the years legends have claimed that a bullet-deflecting, diamond-encrusted corset allowed Anastasia to survive the Bolshevik gunfire and that she escaped and lived abroad in anonymity.

Last year, however, a Russian government commission claimed "definite proof" that one of the skeletons was Anastasia's.

## Hutu refugees slam new Rwandan government

NAIROBI (R) — The leading opposition group among Hutu refugees Friday denounced a cabinet shake-up in Rwanda as strengthening the hand of hardline Tutsis and the Tutsi-dominated army.

In a communique to AFP here, the Rally for Return and Democracy (RDR) said the regime had been radicalised and was now "dominated by the hardline wing of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF)." It was the RPF which led a fightback to end the genocide in Rwanda last year in which Hutu extremists killed more than half-a-million Tutsis, moderate Hutus and their families.

President Pasteur Bizimungu Thursday named as prime minister Pierre Celestin Rwigyema, a 42-

year-old Hutu, to replace Faustin Twagiramungu. He heads a reshuffled cabinet of 21 ministers.

One of the key changes was the appointment of a moderate at the head of the key Rehabilitation Ministry, responsible for resettling refugees. In the place of a man many considered a Tutsi extremist.

Political analysts saw that as an encouraging sign at a moment when the two million Hutu refugees who fled retribution after last year's ethnic bloodbath are too terrified of reprisals to return. The RDR said the reshuffle and arrival of "unknown" personalities in the cabinet would not "inspire confidence and reassure the Rwandan population and in particular the refugees."

"The refugees are follow-

ing the developments in the Kigali regime with concern," it added.

"There is a great risk the new government will pursue the hard line traced by extremist RPF elements who are using all means to prevent dialogue with the refugees on the conditions of their peaceful return," the RDR said.

It called on the international community to make sure the Rwandan government responded to the needs of the refugees and Hutu majority within the country. However it said it feared the government would "pursue attacks against the refugee camps in Zaire and export war to that country, which already suffers enough from the presence of so many Rwandan refugees."

The new cabinet has the same ethnic balance as the old one, with a majority of Hutu ministers, but refugees have denounced many of them as collaborators.

Mr. Bizimungu fired Mr. Twagiramungu, who resigned at more or less the same moment — Monday, accusing him of failing to cope with post-war problems.

Mr. Twagiramungu, for his part, wrote a resignation letter condemning killings by the Tutsi-dominated army and arbitrary arrests, and accused the Tutsis of failing to live up to power-sharing accords.

The crisis underlined the deep ethnic divisions that continue to gnaw at Rwanda.

The new cabinet has the same ethnic balance as the old one, with a majority of Hutu ministers, but refugees have denounced many of them as collaborators.

## Opposition says Kazakh referendum vote invalid

MOSCOW (AFP) — Kazakh opposition groups Friday declared invalid the official result of a referendum on a new constitution giving President Nursultan Nazarbayev greatly enhanced powers to push through economic reforms, Interfax News Agency reported.

Officials from the Communist Party, Labour Movement, the Human Rights Committee and several other organisations said only 34 per cent of the electorate

turned out to vote Wednesday — well below the minimum requirement of 50 per cent or the 90.51 per cent announced by the Central Electoral Commission.

According to the official result, of the 90.51 per cent who voted, 89 per cent favoured boosting Mr. Nazarbayev's powers.

The opposition groups carried out a separate count of voters, with some 1,500 observers posted at 644 polling stations, said Oleg

Abayev, head of the Kazakhstan Human Rights Committee. Yuri Kim, head of the Electoral Commission, rejected the opposition claim as "biased".

"You cannot draw general conclusions on the referendum using some data from some isolated observers," he said, adding that 10,253 polling stations had been set up for the vote.

He said none of the nine foreigners invited to observe the referendum had reported

any election irregularities.

Sam W. Brown, head of the U.S. delegation to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), however said the referendum was "another backward step for democracy" in the central Asian republic.

The new constitution will allow the president to dissolve parliament and choose ministers without needing the approval of parliament.

## Sarajevans wonder why it took NATO so long

SARAJEVO (R) — Sarajevans craned their necks Friday to catch a glimpse of NATO war planes roaring through the skies above the city and wondered aloud why it had taken the jets so long to bomb Serb targets.

"I am convinced the West has finally decided to bring peace here but I wonder why it has taken them so long," said 58-year-old Mustafa Balic, a professor before the war.

"You can see it does not take such a big effort. Every bomb on Pale (the separatist Serb 'capital' east of Sarajevo) will speed up the peace process. I wish I could be a NATO pilot for just one day."

NATO jets and U.N.

artillery began pounding Bosnian Serb targets around Sarajevo Wednesday in retaliation for a Serb mortar bomb which killed 37 people and wounded 85 others in the city earlier in the week.

More than 500 air sorties and 1,000 artillery rounds later the Serbs were reeling from more punishment in three days than they had received in 40 months of war against lightly armed Bosnian government forces.

Bosnian Serb army air defences, arms factories, storage depots, communications and command and control facilities were being systematically destroyed with virtually no response from the Serbs except for the

downing of a single French plane.

Besieged Sarajevans rejoiced in one breath and in the next damned the West for hesitating so long to aid a city where Serb shells and sniper fire have killed more than 10,000 people and wounded another 50,000, most of them civilians.

"The only message we have to NATO is to carry on, carry on and bomb their savage brains out, not in hatred but because that is the only way to bring an end to the deaths of innocent civilians in this city," said housewife Samija Esmamovic, 42.

For Said Jamakovic, a 36-year-old soldier in the Bosnian army, which has fought the Serbs without heavy

weapons because of an international arms embargo, the NATO attacks were a deliverance.

"Thank God the international community finally got serious and realised the only thing the Chetniks (Serbs) understand is force," he said.

"I'd give my life to see them running away from the bombs in Pale. Now the time has come for them to see what it's like to be on the receiving end."

"I can't even sleep these days because I am constantly waiting for new strikes. Believe me, the more strikes there are the more cooperative the Chetniks will become."

## Environmentalists warn of possible nuclear catastrophes in Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — Top environmental experts have warned that crumbling safety, poor training of workers, overflowing waste storage facilities and old equipment could lead to new nuclear disasters in Russia.

"We may have new Chernobyls," said Robert Tilles, chairman of the International Chernobyl Fund for Nuclear Safety, a non-government ecological group monitoring radiation safety.

In April 1986, reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine exploded in the world's worst nuclear disaster, spewing a deadly radioactive cloud across Europe.

Of Russia's 29 operating

nuclear reactors, 11 are the same type as the one that exploded in Chernobyl. Efforts to modernise them have faltered, Mr. Tilles said. At the same time, reactor workers often lack the necessary training to safely operate the facilities.

"We can only hope that the fatal combination of events, which led to Chernobyl, won't happen again," Mr. Tilles said.

Experts warned that the main danger comes from Russia's 160 research reactors, 53 of which are located in Moscow. Many of them date back to the 1940s and the 1950s and are obsolete.

Another serious problem is the lack of capacity to

store the used nuclear fuel and other radioactive waste. The situation is especially alarming in the European part of Russia, where the waste storage facilities of three nuclear plants are filled almost to capacity.

"At the Kursk and Leningrad plants, the waste storages are filled to 95-96 per cent," said Vladimir Kuznetsov, head of the Russian Nuclear Emergency Prevention Centre. "To violation of the basic safety regulations, these plants even don't have a place to unload fuel from their reactors in case of an emergency."

## Liz Taylor and husband separate

LOS ANGELES (R) — Hollywood legend Elizabeth Taylor and her seventh husband, former construction worker Larry Fortensky, have separated after nearly four years of marriage, the couple has announced. "We both need our space for a while, so we have agreed to a trial separation. We both hope this is only temporary," they said in a joint statement. Mr. Fortensky, 43, has reportedly moved out of Taylor's exclusive Bel-Air mansion and the couple is now living apart. The latest twist in Taylor's tumultuous love life came with no advance signs her marriage to Fortensky was on the rocks. The 63-year-old actress has curtailed her appearances since she had hip replacement surgery in June, and she suffered a major business setback this week when the launch of her newest perfume, Black Pearls, was abruptly cancelled. Taylor, who started off as a child actress and rose to become one of Hollywood's most glamorous stars, met Fortensky in 1988 while both were patients at the Betty Ford Centre for Drug and Alcohol Treatment outside Palm Springs, California. Nearly 20 years her junior, Fortensky was constantly at Taylor's bedside when she was admitted to the hospital and nearly died of viral pneumonia in April 1990. After her recovery, the romance flourished.

## Credit card 'condoms' make students think before they spend

GREENVILLE, South Carolina (AP) — First, there was safe sex. Now, at Clemson University, there's safe spending. School officials are urging students to slip "condoms" over their credit cards to make them think before they charge. The condoms are simple sleeves of paper carrying financial advice: "Keep this 'condom' over your credit card," they warn. "The few seconds it takes to get the card ready for use can reduce the urge to spend, spend, spend... And then you'll have money to save and invest." The credit card condom is produced by the National Centre for Financial Education and is designed to be an attention grabber, said Nancy Porter, a family resource management specialist with the Clemson Extension Service. "We're concerned that these college students are really getting themselves in over their heads before they even have a chance to learn how to manage their money," she said.

## Garcia dies smiling

NEW YORK (AP) — Jerry Garcia died smiling. "It's strange to say, but he looked so peaceful," Deborah Koons Garcia wrote about her rock guitarist husband in the Sept. 21 issue of Rolling Stone. "I said to the guy at the funeral home, 'Look, he's smiling. Did you do that to him?'" and he said, "No, that's exactly the way I found him." His face was so at peace. The magazine invited Ms. Koons to write a column about Mr. Garcia died of a heart attack Aug. 9 at a drug rehabilitation clinic at age 33. The Grateful Dead leader decided last summer to confront his heroin addiction, his widow wrote. "It's a pain in the butt... I don't want to do it for the rest of my life," she quoted him as saying.

## JFK's 1945 diary goes to print

NEW YORK (AP) — A diary written by John F. Kennedy during a visit to post-war Europe — including his impressions of Hitler's bunker and German women — has been discovered and will be published in November, Publisher's Weekly magazine said. The magazine's owns editor Maureen O'Brien said the 152-page book printed by Regency Publishing will appear Nov. 22, the 32nd anniversary of Kennedy's assassination.







# Opinion & Analysis

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1974.

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## Guns that had to be silenced

THERE WAS a clear message to the Bosnian Serbs when some 300 NATO warplanes struck at their military bases and ammunition dumps around Sarajevo and their strongholds in Pale and elsewhere in the country. Ostensibly, the successive waves of aerial bombing against Serb positions came in response to the Serb mortar attack on a Sarajevo marketplace that killed 37 people Monday. In reality, however, the decision to launch an all-out assault on the Serb military positions came on the heels of repeated Serb disregard to other U.N. declared safe areas and their professed dependence on military might to impose a settlement for the Bosnian conflict. This is not to mention the Serbs' record of ethnic cleansing, mass murder and rape throughout the past three years or more.

The United Nations, NATO and the entire Western alliance were repeatedly disgraced by their apparent unwillingness to do something concrete in the past to put an end to the carnage of innocent people in the war-torn country. When all failed to put some sense into the Serbian leadership, the U.N. and NATO decided, albeit belatedly, to act. Had NATO acted sooner and in a firm manner against the Serbian aggression and war crimes, the latest killings would not have been necessary.

The massacre of 37 Bosnian civilians last week could have been avoided had NATO's air power been deployed sooner to drive a clear message to the defiant Serbs that enough was enough. Unfortunately, though, the performance of the U.N. and NATO during and before the time of the massacre had given credence to the belief by the Bosnian Serbs that there was no political will on the part of the international community to act against them. As Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic lamented in the wake of the latest exercise of raw power in his country against his archenemies, the world has finally done what it should have done a long time ago.

At long last there has been a real deterrent: NATO has targeted not only the Serbs' artillery posts around the Bosnian capital but also their radars, communication centres, ammunition depots and command posts throughout the country. The scope of NATO's action included Mostar in the west, Gorazde in the east and Tuzla in the north. This is indeed a sizeable military operation by any standards. But more important is the fact that it has been accompanied by an even bigger political campaign against the Serbs. Let us therefore hope that all guns in Bosnia would soon be silenced as they should have done a long time ago so that reason, common sense and peace could prevail.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour commented on the recent series of explosions in Istanbul by expressing the view that Turkey is now facing a real danger of returning to violence and the subsequent intervention of the military in government affairs. Saleh Al Qallab said that the recent spate of explosions in Istanbul was directed not only at the government but also at the tourists who constitute a major source of income to the country. The Turkish armed forces carried out military coups in 1960, 1971 and 1980 in the aftermath of unrest and disturbances that rocked the country at the time, recalled the writer, who expressed belief that the army was bound to make similar moves should the political situation aggravate further.

A WRITER in Al Ra'i demanded that the commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) rescind his order of closing the educational sciences college near Amman because such move is bound to adversely affect the Palestinian refugees living in Jordan. Ahmad Mischel said that the decision to close the college under the pretext of financial constraints was in total contradiction with the agency's repeated announcement that it will not reduce its educational and health services to the refugees under any circumstances. There is no real justification for the closure of the college, especially as the agency's Commissioner Ilter Turkmen mentioned no such thing in his talks with Jordanian government officials last month, said the writer, who said that the agency has time and again reaffirmed that it will not take any action concerning the reduction of services without first consulting with the Jordanian government. As to the financial situation, said the writer, the agency realises that it only needs the sum of \$200,000 to cover the annual expenses of running the college, adding that such small amount can easily be raised through the agency's efforts to secure funds for its operations from the donor nations.

## Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

# Let us put the disturbing episode with Egypt behind

IT WAS not surprising to see Jordan coming under media attacks in Egypt last week over the Kingdom's approach to developments in Iraq. By and large, we all understand why the state-controlled Egyptian press went for belittling Jordan's principled positions and raising question marks over the Kingdom's motivations in giving sanctuary to former Iraqi minister Hussein Kamel and his brother along with their families.

Quite simply, Egypt felt its self-assumed role as "leader" of the Arab World was not being recognised when Jordan did not feel it necessary to consult Cairo over the defections. But that feeling did not start from the defections themselves but from Jordan's decision last year to sign a peace treaty with Israel, also without any prior consultations with Egypt. The pattern of Egyptian thinking was also clearly evident in the initial criticism that President Hosni Mubarak levelled against Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for entering the Oslo accord with Israel before changing tones when Mr. Arafat sought to coordinate further peace moves with Egypt and consulted Cairo.

In fact, by hosting the signing in May 1994 of the agreement that launched Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, Egypt was basking in the superficial political glory as a key player in the entire Middle East peace process. That also explained the very visible Egyptian anger over Mr. Arafat for his last-minute reservations that some key elements were missing from the accord. As far as the Egyptians were concerned, Mr. Arafat has no right whatsoever to cast a cloud over the carefully prepared Egyptian ceremony. Little thought was given to whether Mr. Arafat had a strong point behind his arguments. That has precisely been the problem with Egypt and its approaches to various issues.

Egypt has always wanted a dominant political role in the region much larger than its size and impose its hegemony. But it does not seem to have appreciated that things have undergone dramatic changes in the last five years, and the balance of power in the region no longer remains the same as it did before 1990.

Another factor behind the Egyptian media campaign against Jordan also appeared to be a desire to divert the attention of the Egyptian people from internal troubles besetting them by creating external problems. Perhaps it was only a coincidence that the Iraqi defection and the Jordanian approach to the issue offered the best target for Cairo's effort to deflect public attention from the mounting internal problems.

What we saw in President Mubarak's public offer of asylum to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was a feeble attempt at grabbing world headlines, again falling very

much within the same pattern of behaviour. We don't think President Mubarak needed to be told by anyone that President Saddam is not of the mould that would seek asylum anywhere. As such, President Mubarak, by suggesting that Cairo was willing to offer asylum to the Iraqi president, was only trying to claw back into a position of political initiative, regardless, of course, of the reality that the initiative itself was a non-starter.

It was, however, rather strange that the campaign against Jordan started in the state-controlled Egyptian media one day after the Egyptian foreign minister, Amr Musa, visited Amman and held what he himself described as positive talks with the Jordanian leadership. We know the way things work in Egypt, and no one can convince us that such attacks came upon the initiative of the journalists themselves. The green signal was given from somewhere.

The barbed attack that Cairo's Al Jumhuriyah newspaper levelled against His Majesty the King by suggesting that he was harbouring a desire to bring Iraq back under Hashemite rule was at best totally unfounded. Indeed, the King himself was foreseeing such suggestions when he clearly spelled out in his address to the nation that he did not have any ambition in Iraq except to see an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people. We wonder whether Al Jumhuriyah bothered to include that part of the address in its coverage of the speech itself.

We also know how things work in Jordan. Strange as it may seem to the Egyptians -- and to some others for that matter -- the Jordanian media are not state-controlled. If Jordanian newspapers follow the official line it is only because they are convinced of the soundness of the line. In fact, quite often Jordanian officials suggest to the media here to tone down criticism of foreign countries or governments when such criticism does occur.

Again, it was not any government suggestion in Amman that prompted Jordanian newspapers to hit back at the Egyptian press. It was the indignant response of nationalist Jordanians who found ill-oriented attacks levelled against their country and leadership, and no one should have expected them to accept it for any reason whatsoever. We believe in what our leadership is doing and we are convinced of the wisdom and soundness of our policies.

In any event, we believe that the Egyptian criticism of Jordan was very unfortunate and should not have come in the first place. We are glad to see the Egyptian press toning down the criticism, coupled with indirect official assurances that Cairo does not want any strain in its ties with Amman. We in Jordan share the same sentiments and hope this disturbing episode is behind us now.

# Ministry should reconsider higher education policies

By Ella Nasrallah

The Arabic dailies last week focused their attention on the question of acceptance of students in state-run universities, the repercussions of the defection of senior Iraqi officials to Jordan, domestic affairs and the Middle East question.

In discussing the controversy over the acceptance of limited numbers of school graduates at state universities, a writer in Al Dustour said that the government's decision to accept an additional number not exceeding 600 students can by no means solve the problem. He said twice the number of those accepted are facing a grim future since their parents cannot afford to send them abroad or pay the high fees charged by the private universities. Mohammad Daoud said that the solution is to have state universities adopting double shifts and also forcing the private universities to reduce their fees. He said this will help as many students as possible to acquire higher education.

Ahmad Mischel, a writer in Al Ra'i, said that not only are students facing difficulty in securing seats for their higher education at state universities in Jordan but they also face the grim future of joining the army of the unemployed. The writer said that the Ministry of Higher Education has a duty to help find more university seats for school graduates eligible for obtaining higher education and the private universities have a duty to reduce their fees so as to open the door for more students to enrol. But, he said, the real problem lies with the university courses and subjects because they do not help the graduates to find jobs. The writer said that the courses should be re-shaped in a manner to cater to the needs of the local labour market.

George Haddad, a writer in Al Dustour, criticised the manner in which students are recruited for study at the state universities, charging that a quite a good number of the fortunate ones enter

because they are supported by people in high places (wasta). Citing the example of a number of students who were accepted at these universities with below the 80 per cent grade level while others with 83 per cent grades were rejected, the writer said some of the students who are accepted through (wasta) to study at the state universities have rich parents who can afford to pay for their education at private colleges and foreign universities. The crisis that is created annually at the time of university registration in Jordan is caused by two factors: the intervention of people in high places (wasta) to secure seats for certain students and the failure on the part of the concerned authorities to come up with an appropriate educational system to ensure justice and equality.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

More than two thirds of students who passed the Tawjihi examinations this year are frustrated because they have failed to obtain seats at state universities to continue their higher education, said Fakhri Kaware, a writer in Al Dustour. Their frustration came as a result of failure on the part of the Council of Higher Education to find an appropriate solution to the crisis, which faces Jordan every year, said the writer. Citing the example of Egypt, where all those who pass the Tawjihi exams can enrol at the state universities the writer said Egypt's universities are far less in number than those in Jordan in percentage terms.

A writer in Al Dustour said that civil servants attach great hope for improving their living standard on government decision to raise their salaries in the face of the sky rocketing prices. But the minute the government decides to give its employees a raise, merchants start thinking of ways to absorb it through raising the prices of their

goods, said Fakhri Kaware. What the employees get from the government is channelled in a different manner to the pockets of the greedy merchants and profiteers who are able to deceive the government and the limited-income groups alike and are quite skillful in ways of massing fortunes at the expense of the people, said the writer. It is incumbent on the government, he said, to take a firm stand against the merchants' greed to save itself the headache of giving raises to its employees except whenever that is necessary and halt the misery of the limited-income group.

Mohammad Subeithi, a writer in Al Dustour, criticised calls on the government to abolish the Ministry of Supply and stop subsidies for basic commodities. The ministry pays JD 30 million

retroactively the United States is opposed to such conclusion and is determined to perpetuate the sanctions. However, he said the Iraqi government's recent decision to open negotiations with Kuwait to find a solution to the problem of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq could help overcome the American opposition to the lifting of the sanctions especially if the Kuwaitis and the Iraqis reach a settlement. Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that Jordan is calling for change in Iraq because it fears for the fate of its people who are starving and facing misery. Jordan calls for the change if it brings about an end to the sanctions that have brought about this misery but it is not urging one faction to take up arms against another or for violence to erupt in Iraq. What Jordan is seeking is an end to the embargo, as well as freedom and democracy for the Iraqi people and a better future for their children, said the writer. But he stressed that it is because Jordan cares for the Iraqi brothers that it is calling for the change, which the writer said would bring with it peace and prosperity to Iraq and the Arab Nation.

Mr. Hattab's views conflicted with those of Mahmoud Rimawi, another writer in Al Ra'i, who said that only the Iraqis have the right to take action that would either perpetuate the present situation or cause a change in the regime. The writer said that the Iraqis should have the freedom to voice their views and decide on the form of government they want because they are more aware of their needs than other people. Any change in Iraq must take into account the Iraqi people's interests, said the writer, who expressed hope that the change would mark the advent of democratic life to the people.

# 'Twice bitten, thrice shy'

## 'The U.S. has abandoned the leadership role it should be playing as the sole superpower in the world'

By G. H. Jansen

"IT IS damned if it does and damned if it doesn't," that at present, seems to be the fate reserved for the U.S., the sole remaining world power.

Soon after the U.S. assumed that position, by default because of the collapse of the USSR, it was feared that Washington would be the "big bad wolf" or "tiger," freely roaming the international jungle. That has not happened, not as yet, and that failure has taken place so quietly that the world at large does not seem to have noticed that it is not led by a single world power.

One particular example of this development became apparent when George Stephanopoulos, the Green American special adviser to U.S. President Bill Clinton paid visits to Turkey, Cyprus and Greece in late August. His visit here turned out to be bitterly disappointing to the Greek Cypriots due, to some extent, to hopes based on Mr. Stephanopoulos' Greek ancestry. When, soon after Mr. Clinton's election, it was known that his college mate was going to be one of his right hand men, the Greek Cypriots seemed to believe that their struggle with Turkey, now forcibly occupying 38 per cent of the island, was all over bar the shouting: Washington would return occupied northern Cyprus to the Greek Cypriots on a silver platter.

At the end of his visit here, Mr. Stephanopoulos told a Greco-Turkish press conference that he, that is the U.S., had no plan to solve the Cyprus problem and that the two sides had to get together to work out a solution between themselves.

He was then condemned because the U.S. didn't take sides. Mr. Stephanopoulos' words of advice were identical to words of advice given by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Arabs and, perhaps, to the Israelis, during his all-too-frequent missions to West Asia.

Thus, and as a matter of policy, it would seem that the U.S. has deliberately abdicated the leadership role that it should be exercising as the sole superpower. Why so? Not for lack of trying, but perhaps because of two conspicuous attempts at, and failures of, leadership -- and perhaps even lack of leadership -- in Somalia and now in Bosnia. So twice bitten, thrice shy.

There are several reasons for those particular failures and the present abdication. The most conspicuous was the weak, vacillating leadership given in foreign affairs by President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher. Mr. Clinton personally is one of the causes of the failure of leadership. Because he was a draft-dodger not willing to serve in Vietnam, he cannot or will not impose his will, as commander-in-chief, on the U.S. military in those several situations where the U.S. has to play a military role abroad.

Then there is the widespread American fear of taking human casualties. No sooner are "the boys" put into the field than "bring the boys home" becomes a popular slogan. The great American public has not yet grasped the simple elementary fact that the role of a soldier is to kill and be killed. This humanitarian but weak-kneed impulse could be seen in operation in Beirut in 1983-84 and Mogadishu a decade later.

Other countries are reluctant to grant leadership to the U.S. when they see, in the crucially important West Asian area, that the U.S. is led by the minor state of Israel and carries out its behests even at the expense of its own con-

able national interests in the area which should lead the U.S. to be more friendly towards the Arabs.

Syria, for some time now, has been begging the U.S. to take an active part in its negotiations with Israel, which the U.S. helped to bring about, but the U.S. has consistently, and correctly, refused to do so. Correctly, because it has taken the Israeli side in the dispute. But, as a result, the talks between Israel and Syria are deadlocked.

Similarly it is correct for the U.S. not to participate in the Cyprus negotiations because here too it has taken sides with Turkey, covertly it would seem though this is known to be the fact.

The U.S. is at the centre of a dense world-wide net of interests so that it is unable to "take on" any major country which could do harm to this or that sector of America's network of interests. Thus, the U.S. will not "take on" Israel or Turkey, China or Japan, or India or Pakistan (maybe), or Indonesia or Germany, or Brazil or South Africa, or France over nuclear testing.

However, the U.S. record of leadership is not entirely negative: Last week it intervened in the case of Harry Wu, the human rights activist arrested in China he was released because of Washington's intervention. But that worked only because China, at this juncture, was prepared to pay a price for Mrs. Hillary Clinton's presence at the women's conference in Beijing. And also because China wants the continuation of the most favoured nation trading status granted by the U.S.

(This, of course, is how the U.S. exercises not leadership but influence -- by having something that other countries want, as for instance, influence with or grants from those two superagencies, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. But this is more blackmail than leadership because there is no direct exercise of power or even of persuasion.)

Another example of America's rare success in leadership was in Ireland where, thanks really to the influence of the Irish-American community, the Irish Republican Army was compelled to agree to a ceasefire.

But underlying the U.S. failure of leadership is a basic emotion. What the English poet Laureate Lord Tennyson called, "the craven fear of being great," because to be "great" and to be a leader one has to be out in front, on one's own, doing unpopular and even nasty things which the Americans, who want to be loved and who believe passionately in, "togetherness," do not like.

There is also a failure of the national nerve, due in a large degree to the humiliating defeat in Vietnam. It is inaccurate to say that the walk-over "victory" in the "war" against Iraq has cured the U.S. of the "Vietnam syndrome": for the second Gulf war was not a real war and the "Vietnam syndrome" is still alive in the U.S.

This American moral uncertainty about past actions resurface in mid-August with questions being raised about whether the U.S. should apologise to Japan for dropping the two atom bombs there, even though, as is widely known, the Japanese were brutal aggressors.

Honest doubt and self-questioning about one's past actions are good things but not when, as in the case of the U.S., they lead to weak willed uncertainty and indecisiveness.

But if, unfortunately, there can only be one superpower, it is really such a bad thing that that power should be a confused and uncertain giant?



## Northern Ireland peace is Washington party talk

By Andrew Hill  
Reuters

DUBLIN — It was a muggy night in Washington when Ireland came together after seven decades of partition, 25 years of war, 3,200 deaths and one of the biggest peace time security operations since World War II.

Sweat flowed as easily as the wine and Guinness beer at a party in the Irish ambassador's residence. The guests eyed the small swimming pool in the garden with a barely concealed thirst to swim.

Such events are common in the U.S. power capital.

But this was a remarkable evening. The guests represented every shade of political opinion in modern Ireland and they were talking to each other, something they never do at home.

It was the political dividend of 10 months of peace in Northern Ireland brought about by twin guerrilla ceasefires and an unprecedented international attempt to heal one of Europe's deepest scars through concerted diplomacy.

No deals were clinched. No grand plan was unveiled to bring about the new "agreed Ireland", sought by Britain and Ireland, in

which Protestant and Catholic, Irish nationalist and pro-British unionist, could live together in prosperous peace.

But it symbolised a willingness to talk, even if only above the clinking of glasses and the drive of an Irish reel band, brought about by the ceasefire of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which will be one year old next week.

That hot night, whether on the streets of Belfast recently cleared of British army troops or in the corridors of power in draughty Dublin, the talk, as in Washington, was of peace.

"It wasn't the fact that

they all gathered under one roof," recalled one senior Irish official who was present. "It was the fact that they were all standing there and talking together."

The occasion was a conference called by President Bill Clinton to draw investment into Northern Ireland and the border counties to cement the rare peace caused by the silencing of IRA and Protestant "loyalist" guns.

It was the who's who of Irish politics, a layman's guide to a conflict that has eluded many attempts at resolution but which the key peace-makers, Britain, Ireland and the United

States, say now faces its best-ever chance of settlement.

There were Northern Irish Unionists, the diehard Protestant bastions of continued British rule of the province. There were Irish Republicans who dream of ending the seven-decade old partition of the island.

There were Irish government ministers such as Deputy Premier Dick Spring, one of the authors of the Anglo-Irish Downing Street declaration which launched the peace drive in December 1993 and persuaded the gunmen to stop the killing.

There were even political representatives of the mur-

kiest corners of the conflict, the Protestant gunmen who killed 900 Catholics in cold blood to terrorise the community from which the Irish Republican Army guerrillas draw support.

Sinn Féin, the IRA's political arm, sent its regrets. Its president, Gerry Adams, was hosting another function across town at which he was airing his views on how to move the peace towards his goal of ending British rule of the province.

But he had made his mark in Washington. Hours before he held a brief meeting with Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, an event unthinkable only months previously when London vilified Mr. Adams.

It was a moment rich in symbolism. Britain had insisted there could be no such meeting until the IRA started handing over the guns and bombs it used against British rule. But the London government changed its mind.

Northern Ireland's mainstream Unionist leadership collectively boycotted the Washington conference as a result, but sent delegates

nonetheless. They were there on that muggy night in Washington, even though they never come to Dublin.

So was David Ervine, head of the Progressive Unionist Party, which represents the views of the Ulster Volunteer Force, one of the two main Loyalist guerrilla groups — so-called because they are "loyal" to British rule.

His pup has no seats in the London parliament — yet. But Mr. Ervine says it represents the voice of Protestants weary of war and of a leadership still in place from decades ago whose war cry was and is "Ulster says no" — to anything but British rule.

"Where did it get us all?" asks Mr. Ervine. "The Unionist leadership has been saying 'no' for years and all we've had is years of conflict."

It still says "no". It says no to attending an Irish forum for national peace and reconciliation which meets weekly in Dublin to test the views of every section of Irish society from farmers to Sinn Féin and the opposition Irish Fianna Fail party.

It says "no" to attending

all-party talks to be convened by Britain and Ireland until the IRA and Loyalists disarm. It fears a sellout to Irish nationalism under the guise of peace.

But there is a feeling among British and Irish officials as well as those at the Washington party that Unionists will have to talk, if only to safeguard their British status they cherish.

The point of reference is a new blueprint, called the framework document, which Britain and Ireland launched in February to build on the peace and get the two neighbours to cooperate on the economic front to cement trust and peace.

It is still on the table, awaiting a forum in which it can be discussed.

Its fourth paragraph, which might have been hung over the door of the Irish embassy that night, said: "A climate of peace enables the process of healing to begin."

"Everyone now has a role to play in moving irreversibly beyond the failures of the past and creating new relationships capable of perpetuating peace with freedom and justice."

## Rwandan Hutu hardliners feel no guilt for genocide

By Manohar Esipisu  
Reuters

KASHUSHA CAMP, Zaire — The men of Kashusha camp say they oppose further ethnic bloodletting in their Rwandan homeland but they will not apologise for the slaughter of up to one million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus last year.

Kashusha and the twin camp host about 100,000 ethnic Hutus, or one tenth of the Hutu refugees who fled to Zaire after the genocide and civil war.

But the camps host a special class of refugee. Many are from the Interahamwe militia that is blamed for the massacres or are former civil servants who fled when the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) won the war in July, 1994.

They know they will be key targets for reprisals if they go home, but they do not accept blame for what happened.

"Are we remorseful over so much blood lost, should we apologise? I do not think so. It was a war and in a war it is not one party that is guilty," said a university-trained agronomist in Kashusha called Ngendahana.

"Most refugees do not know who was involved in the massacres. It is impossible for everyone to have been involved," said Asman Gakusi, once a hotelier but now championing the cause of an organisation called Orerwa au Rwanda (Return to Rwanda).

The group denies that

A Zairean soldier keeps guard over Hutu refugees who were forced to evacuate the refugee camps and return to Rwanda (AFP photo)



former government leaders or the Interahamwe militia are threatening and intimidating ordinary refugees to ensure that efforts at repatriation fail.

"Who is the killer? Inside the RPF aren't there people who have also killed and are walking around Kigali free?" asks a photocopying leaflet circulating in Kashusha.

"We do not want war in our country. We want peace. We have no regrets

or feeling of guilt over what happened, we were in a war situation then."

"We can only be guaranteed security and peace if the current leaders in Kigali talk to us so we can discuss how to govern our country together," the notice added.

Zaire has suspended the forced expulsion of Hutu refugees it began one week ago. The U.N. refugee agency UNHCR is ready to take over a voluntary repatriation and claims many ordinary refugees are willing.

But only about 200 of the one million refugees took up the offer on Friday, with many refugees hatching their leaders' view that the Tutsi-dominated army in Rwanda will wreak merciless revenge on returnees.

Foreign aid workers say the Interahamwe in Kashusha and Inera formed defence units last week to resist Zairean troops if they

tried to force them to leave exile.

Around 100,000 of the young men in camps dotting the shores of Lake Kivu in eastern Zaire fled to the hills when Zaire began its forceful repatriation on Aug. 19. Some 60,000 of these have since returned to their camps.

The Zaireans drove about 15,000 refugees back to Rwanda before suspending the operation. The UNHCR claims the returnees have been treated well and there is a pro-return momentum.

In Kashusha, the view is very different. A man who declined to be identified spoke of returnees being divided into groups of men, women and children at the border. He said the men were sentenced to prison or death despite nothing proving guilt or innocence.

Cloths of dust hang over Kashusha, a squalid and smelly place. But residents feel safe and have built a home away from home.

Senior civil servants in the former government still have their cars and trucks.

Kashusha has everything from European videotapes to watches and electronic gadgets, offered for sale to visitors with dollars.

One of the refugees is Chinese. The woman declined to give her name but said she had trekked into exile with her Hutu husband, whom she married when he was studying in Beijing.

"I saw some of the killings. I saw the fighting. But it is not my country and I cannot justifiably say who was guilty and who was innocent."

## Jordan, Israel discuss strategy

(Continued from page 1)

Israel, which signed a peace treaty in October and are now seeking close economic cooperation and coordination in developing some of the border areas, including the Jordan Rift Valley.

The meeting was attended by Omayya Touqan, a senior member of a Jordanian committee preparing for the MENA summit. Jordanian ambassador to Israel Marwan Muasher, Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Israeli Embassy Yacov Rusen and Prime Ministry advisor Nassim Awadallah as well as other officials.

"We discussed all issues of regional economic cooperation and matters related to the Amman economic summit," Dr. Khalaf told reporters after the two-and-a-half-hour meeting, held over lunch at the Guest Palace in Amman.

"The three most important topics we discussed were regional projects, particularly projects that we will submit to the Amman summit. We also discussed the Amman summit and we discussed issues of interest to the region in the post-peace era."

"We have decided to give priorities to fast-track projects that the region needs and which could be implemented relatively speedily," said Dr. Khalaf, adding that both sides agreed to coordinate work on preparing for joint projects.

The minister said that among the priority projects — some of which are expected to be implemented in 1996 — were access roads and bridges across the River Jordan to connect Jordan

with the Palestinian territories as well as Israel. There are two bridges connecting Jordan with the West Bank and another linking the Jewish state with the Kingdom.

In addition, a desert crossing point — Araba — is also operational near Aqaba. However, the bridge and the southern crossing are not seen as adequate to accommodate the large volume of Israelis visiting Jordan every day and an expected high volume of cargo traffic between the two sides after they sign agreements on transport and trade.

Mr. Beilin said some projects were shortlisted for quick implementation, but he declined to discuss details. "The meeting was too short to review the costs involved," he told reporters at the Guest Palace.

However, he said the talks covered the expansion of Aqaba airport to serve both countries, development of the Jordan Rift Valley and a \$3 billion plan to build a canal to link the Red Sea with the Dead Sea.

"What is more important," said Mr. Beilin, "we — Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis — will be able to plan together for the future, because we live here together and it will be a mistake for us to plan separately for the common future for all of us."

"We have found a common denominator," he said of his discussions with Dr. Khalaf. "The common denominator is very wide."

Jordan and Israel as well as the Palestinians have prepared a list of projects worth several billion dollars to be presented at the

Amman summit, expected to be attended by more than 1,500 government leaders, international businessmen and economic experts. All sides would be seeking financing for the projects, some of them to be shared by Jordan and Israel as well as the Palestinians.

As such, said Alon Liel, secretary-general of the Israeli ministry of economy and planning, Mr. Beilin and Dr. Khalaf agreed to hold a meeting with Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath in Bonn in October. "The idea is to create a Jordanian-Israeli-

Palestinian triangle for economic cooperation," Liel told the Jordan Times. "We have developed a framework not only to go on and discuss projects, but also to discuss the roots — the economies of the three countries, the infrastructure, services, etc.," Mr. Liel said. "It was a very

productive meeting."

"The two countries never sat down and planned" economic cooperation, said Mr. Liel. "We have attended many international forums but we never had a meeting between the two planning ministers."

In his comments to the press, Mr. Beilin also touched on Israel's negotiations with Syria and criticised Damascus for not accepting Israeli calls for behind-the-scenes contacts to advance the peace process.

"I'm much less optimistic about the Syrian track" compared with the Palestinian track, he said. "I believe that Israel went a very long way suggesting that our withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights will be parallel to the extent of peace suggested by the Syria. Regrettably, until this moment there is no decision from the Syrian side."

"It is very difficult to tell," he said in response to

a question when he expected Israel to make peace with Syria. "I would like to understand the Syrian position. As you know we have no other channels to the Syrians. We don't have political relations with the Syrians. There is no channel of communications between us and the Syrians, which makes our life more difficult."

Mr. Beilin agreed that the concept of regional cooperation would make better sense if Syria and Lebanon were to join the multilateral phase of the peace process. Both countries are staying away from that phase saying such discussions could wait until progress is made in the bilateral negotiations.

"I suggest that they decide to join us," said Mr. Beilin. "It is their decision. We would like them to join us. If they decide to join, like many other Arab countries, it will be to the benefit of all of us."

## Strikes on Serbs suspended

(Continued from page 1)

bian President Slobodan Milosevic. The two met again Friday.

The airstrikes — the largest in NATO history — seemed to be having the intended effect of limiting the Serbs' ability to wage war.

Captain Trevor Murray, chief of air operations at NATO's southern headquarters in Naples, said the alliance had flown 500 missions by Friday, and there were no new reports of anti-aircraft fire.

Reflecting growing optimism among U.N. officials, spokesman Chris Vernon said: "We have completely suppressed in our opinion the ability of the Bosnian Serb heavy weapons to fire back into Sarajevo."

German warplanes were in

action Friday over Bosnia, marking the first German combat action since World War II.

Bonn gave only the barest information about the mission, which was in support of the rapid reaction force in Bosnia-Herzegovina rather than part of the NATO air raids.

The German Tornados "returned safely to the air base at Piacenza" in Italy, the German defence ministry said.

The announcement did not say exactly when the German Luftwaffe jets were in action, but other sources said it was on Friday.

By coincidence, Friday was the 56th anniversary of the beginning of World War II in Europe, when Adolf Hitler's

troops, tanks and planes invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939. The anniversary was marked quietly in some military cemeteries and churches in Germany.

The German planes were in the air also on Thursday but they were not called on because of "technical reasons" that the defence ministry did not explain further.

U.N. military sources in Sarajevo and Zagreb said Friday's targets included: A T-64 tank and an artillery piece near the southwestern city of Mostar, an anti-aircraft missile site near Sokolac in eastern Bosnia, a radar hunker near the eastern town of Foca, an ammunition dump southwest of the government enclave of Gorazde, and a road bridge at Miljeno, 10 kilometres southeast of Gorazde.

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# Economy

## Bahrain reports growth, lower deficit

MANAMA (AFP) — A rise in crude prices in this first half of 1995 boosted Bahrain's economy and slashed the budget deficit by more than 40 per cent, its finance and economy minister said Wednesday.

Ibrahim Abdul Karim said the gross domestic product (GDP) was expected to rise by 2.5 per cent in 1995 to 1.88 billion Bahraini dinars (\$4.88 billion) while the value added in the oil sector would surge by 11.5 per cent and that in the non-oil sector by around one per cent.

"Oil and non-oil exports have increased this year while there was a rise in applications for trade and industrial licences," he told Al-Khabeer Al-Khaleej daily.

"The results recorded during the period covering January and June 1995 are encouraging, especially in view of the difficult business environment being experienced throughout the region," he added.

Bahrain produces around 40,000 barrels per day of crude oil, most of which are refined and exported. Other exports include aluminium from the government-controlled Alba company, the biggest smelter in the Middle East.

Mr. Abdul Karim said the actual budget deficit was reduced to 28.7 million dinars (\$74.6 million) in the first half of 1995, from 45.7 million dinars (\$126.6 million) in the same period of 1994.

An increase in exports and unchanged import value also created a trade surplus of 64.8 million dinars (\$168.4 million) in the first half of 1995, when exports totalled 723 million dinars (\$1.92 billion).

The oil price rise in the first half also boosted Bahrain's crude earnings by 29 million dinars (\$75.4 million), the minister said without giving figures on the total income.

The projected growth in 1995 is lower than the 3.2 per cent GDP increase recorded in 1994, when Bahrain sharply boosted aluminium exports.

Unlike the major Gulf oil producers, Bahrain relies more on income from non-crude exports and the non-oil sector accounts for the bulk of its GDP.

## Iraq gives traders deadline to clear banned goods

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq will soon mobilise the army, police and members of the ruling Baath Party for a crackdown on smuggling and traders dealing in banned goods.

The Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), in a decree signed by President Saddam Hussein and published in Baghdad newspapers Friday, issued new directives to check the smuggling into neighbouring countries and to clear shop shelves of goods banned in Iraq.

"The ministries of defence and interior, the General Directorate of Security, the General Commission of Customs and (Baath) Party organisations are authorised to seize property bound for smuggling and property banned from circulation in the local market," said the RCC, the highest executive and legislative body in Iraq.

It is the second time in three years Iraq has attempted a crackdown on smugglers and traders dealing in banned items.

The list of banned foreign goods ranges from toys, computers, beer and spirits to chicken and baking powder.

It also includes foreign confectionery, apples, bananas, whisky, cigarettes, perfumes, videos, watches,

cheese, vacuum cleaners, washers, clothes, shoes, radios and cassette recorders.

Iraqi traders were only allowed to deal in two kinds of imported goods — basic foods which are exempt from customs duties, and a heavily-taxed special list of permitted spare parts and agricultural tools.

But as time passed, the authorities relaxed controls and a variety of foreign goods emerged in local market again.

Shops in smart areas in Baghdad are now loaded with foreign sweets, canned foods and beverages — real luxuries for many hard-hit Iraqis, reeling under crippling U.N. trade sanctions imposed for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Imports of clothes and shoes are openly displayed in shops in several areas in Baghdad.

Commented one trader in the city's Karrada district: "within 30 days most shelves in my shop will be empty. About 50 per cent of what you see falls within the category of banned items."

The sinking dinar, which now trading at about 2,000 to one U.S. dollar, has made Iraq a haven for smugglers.

Under the new decree, to take effect in a month, a

committee will be formed in each province in Iraq to receive items that will be confiscated and hand them over to ministries. The RCC also offered rewards to informers.

Imported goods are expensive and beyond the reach of most Iraqis but the trader in Karrada said many in his neighbourhood had the ability to pay.

A pack of foreign cigarettes in Karrada was selling on Friday for about 600 dinars and a kilogramme of Jordanian spaghetti for 400.

Most imports enter Iraq from either Jordan or Turkey through the Kurdish rebel-held territory.

"For me it is the end of business. I will have to seek another source of income," said a shop owner.

At Sahata Al Tahrir in the heart of Baghdad thousands of people, many of them petty traders, crammed an open square, selling mostly household belongings.

Abdul Hussein Abbas, squatting under the shade of a high rise, had a radio, glasses, spoons and blankets for sale.

"Who cares about honey, sweets, whisky or Pepsi Cola. We need flour, rice and sugar," he said.

## Lend to poor, not rich, says banker

HUAIROU, China (R) — The world's banks should alter their lending policies radically to lend to the poor and not to the rich, the founder and director of the world's biggest bank for the poor said Friday.

The Grameen Bank of Bangladesh will make loans of \$500 million this year, averaging \$140 each, to its two million clients in 35,000 villages, 94 per cent of whom are women. Mohammad Yunus said.

He spoke at the credit corner of the non-governmental organisations Forum for Women, which opened Thursday in this suburb of Beijing, after attending a seminar on women and economic empowerment: Banking on the Poor.

The forum runs in parallel and hopes to influence the fourth U.N. Conference on Women, which opens Monday and has economic improvement of women as a major theme.

The Grameen Bank, established in 1983, has become a world model for alternative banking and was widely cited at the seminar by those who have established similar banks and credit institutions outside the financial mainstream.

The bank targets the very poor, with starting loans as low as \$12-15 for items such as a sewing machine, materials to make baskets or to buy ducks or goats.

"Our repayment rate is 98 per cent, against a recovery rate of 80 per cent for commercial loans, less than 25 per cent for farm loans and less than 30 per cent for housing loans in Bangladesh," said Mr. Yunus.

"This is because the poorest are very active, agile and work harder than the rich," he said. "It is a question of survival."

## South Korean foreign debt hits record \$70b

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's gross foreign debt was a record \$70.2 billion at the end of June due mainly to a ballooning current account deficit, the Bank of Korea said Friday.

Net foreign debt — total foreign debt minus overseas assets — stood at \$17.3 billion as of June, up 68 per cent or \$7.02 billion from the end of last year.

Bank officials said an aggravated current account deficit, and the extended payment period for imports on a deferred payment basis were responsible for the sharp rise in debt this year.

A surge of overseas loans by corporations to finance their facility expansion in tandem with the economic recovery was also blamed for swelling the debt, they said.

Overseas assets expanded by \$6.33 billion in the

January-to-June period to \$52.9 billion as of June, the central bank said.

Short-term foreign loans repayable within a year increased by \$9.24 billion from the end of last year to \$39.63 billion at the end of June, while long-term loans rose by \$4.11 billion to \$30.56 billion.

South Korea saw its total foreign debt fall between 1985 and 1989 to \$29.37 billion, thanks to current-account surpluses during the period.

But since then total foreign debt has steadily worsened to \$42.81 billion in 1992 and \$43.87 billion in 1993.

The central bank, however, said the nation's debt would shrink, given that the current account deficit and domestic firms' foreign loans are expected to decline in tandem with South Korea's economic slowdown.

## Russia plans to streamline tax system

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian government plans to streamline the country's tax system from Jan. 1 by removing a dozen company taxes and limiting various regional taxes to ease the burden on investors.

Deputy Finance Minister Sergei Shatalov told reporters the taxes to be lifted included the "special" tax for supporting farmers, which forms 1.5 per cent of value added tax.

In the first six months of this year police listed more than 12,000 new enterprises which were set up illegally without being registered with the tax authorities, compared with 8,000 for the whole of 1994.

Mr. Shatalov described the current tax system as "vague, unstable and unpredictable," saying it put off investors and encouraged tax fraud, which has reached astronomical proportions, and could deprive the 1995 budget of 40 per cent of planned revenue.

The new tax code also restricts local authorities from imposing various regional taxes.

Since 1994 Moscow has allowed regions the right to impose their own taxes.

"About 100 new taxes, appeared, some of which are bizarre such as that imposed on cattle for passing through a village or the tax intended to fund a regional football team," Mr. Shatalov said.

He said the tax reforms would only affect companies.

At the current rate, individuals earning less than 10 million rubles (\$2,300) annually are liable to pay up to 12 per cent income tax, while those earning between 10 and 50 million are liable for 20 per cent and those earning more than 50 million are liable for 30 per cent.

## Persian carpet exports fall sharply

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian carpet exports, the country's main source of hard currency after oil, have dropped sharply amid tough new government regulations on exports and currency exchange.

The customs department says \$400 million of carpets were exported during the first four months of the current Iranian year, down from \$600 million for the same period last year.

Total sales last year reached \$1.8 billion.

But many experts believe sales are even lower, with carpet exporters claiming the trade has all but stopped because of measures introduced by the government in May and imposed almost overnight.

The new regulations require carpet exporters to repatriate all their foreign earnings within six months and exchange their earnings at the state bank at the maximum official rate of 3,000 riyals to the dollar, 25 per cent lower than the black market prices for the greenback.

"Even if all goes well, from transportation costs to

marketing, exporters will lose an average of 20 per cent," Assadollah Fazeli, a major carpet dealer, told AFP. "No one wants to export carpets under such circumstances. We have no choice but to wait and see what happens."

Dozens of merchants participating in a carpet fair in Tehran this week echoed his words.

"This is a turning-point for our carpet exports," said one participant, Ali Akbar Tavakoli. "We have worked for years to become number one in the world only to lose it to carpet exporters from other countries like China, India and Turkey."

Participants complained they had not even sold half as much as they did in last year's fair, organised annually by the government.

"People just become bere to look. There were hardly any exporters coming to visit," Mr. Tavakoli said.

Under pressure from merchants, the government agreed last month to allow traders to keep 30 per cent of their money abroad.

But the measure failed to satisfy exporters, who say

carpets are over-valued and demand further cuts in rates.

"This is a political issue, not an economic one," said another carpet merchant, Hamidreza Dilmagbani. "The government doesn't want to listen to us."

But an official of the state-owned Iran carpet company accused merchants of exaggerating, saying the price of Iranian carpets had fallen sharply in the world market in recent years and the government had to intervene at some point.

## THE Daily Crossword by Virginia B. Hopewell

ACROSS

1 — row (dereflects' area)

5 College gp.

9 Broz (Tito)

14 Cornmilion

15 Puerto —

16 Palate pendant

17 Elvis — Presley

18 Make as weges

19 No way!

20 Volunteer State

22 Obliterate

23 Shiny fabric

24 Peruse

26 "The — Not Taken" (Frost)

29 Terrapin

33 — Lame

37 Irritate

39 Nautical word

40 Accustom

41 Thousand dollars

42 Took an oath

43 Street group

44 Roman garment

45 "The Lady —"

46 Pilots

48 "This one's —"

50 Requisite

52 Unfavorable

57 Stage presentations

60 Certain scientist

63 Eagle's nest

64 Give the eye

65 Exchange premium

66 Ulysses S. —

67 Nail for a plummel

68 Criticizes

69 Magnani and Moffo

70 Japanese wrestling

71 Gen. Robert —

DOWN

1 Data, lor short

2 Asian peninsula

3 — care one straw" (Terence)

4 "No man is an island" poet

5 CA city

6 Inlets

7 Farm division

8 Copier need

9 AK city

10 Bank bad news word

11 Capital of Fiji

12 Dots of land; Fr.

13 Whittle away

21 Mysterious

25 Montmartre season

27 Jason's craft

28 Artist Rivera

30 Author Heyerdahl

31 Knowledge handed down

32 Inspected

33 Lodgings

34 Med. subj.

35 "Clair de —"

36 "Don't cry for me, —"

38 Spere

42 Strainer

44 Famous poet's initials

47 Adjusts a clock

49 Manage to get along

51 Trivial matter

53 Day's march

54 August

55 Net

56 Unevenly notched

57 Heroic tale

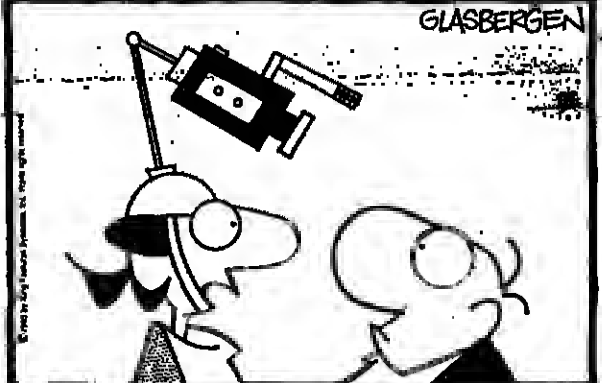
58 Jerome of music

59 Persian Gulf land

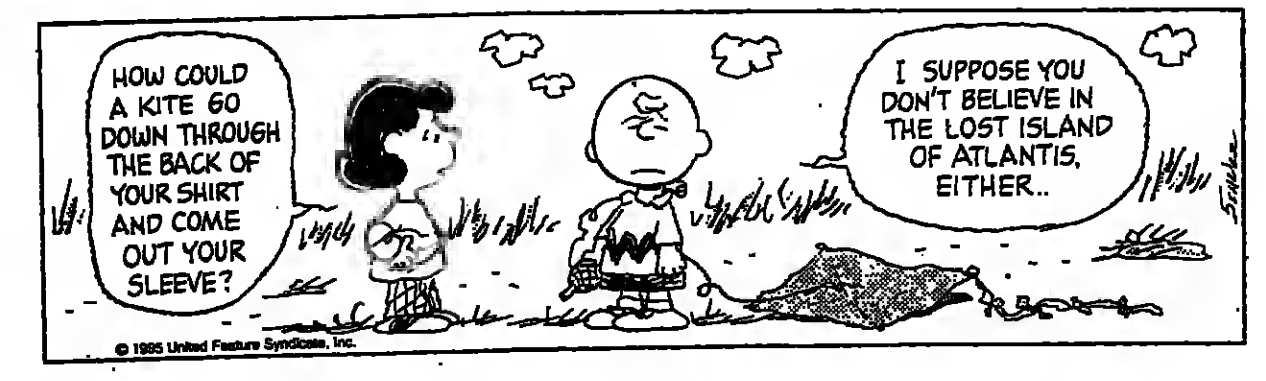
61 USSR secret police

62 Seafood item

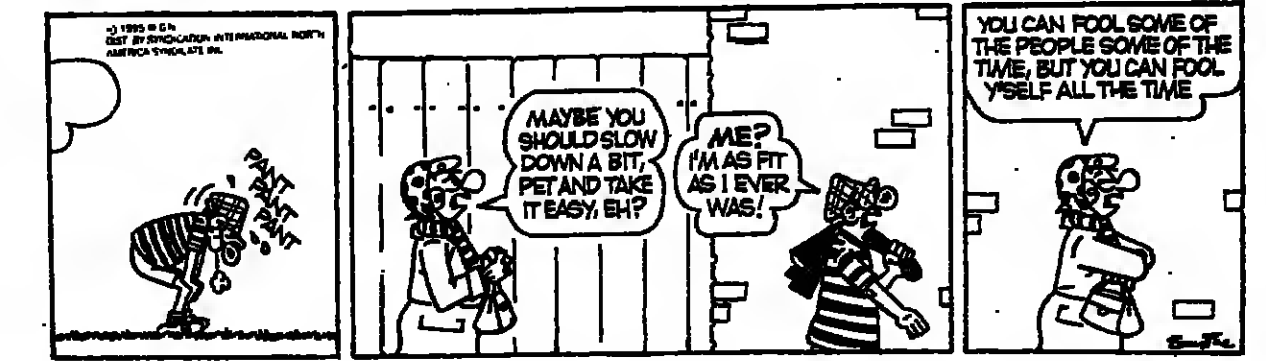
## THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You know how to improve existing conditions at your home and get excellent results. Stay within your budget this evening or you will be short of money later on.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Add to important routines early in the day and accomplish a great deal. Show more understanding towards associates or there could be great problems.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Find out what your true financial status is this morning and do whatever is necessary to bring more abundance. Perseverance pays off. Enjoy the company of a close friend this evening.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get an early start on important business matters so that you'll have time for recreation later. Pay vital bills that may have come up.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study personal aspects of your life and figure out the proper way to improve them this morning. Strive for increased happiness in your personal life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Gain the cooperation of good friends for a personal interest you have in mind this morning. Obtain data you need from the right source for a current project.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Look to a higher up for support you need today in order to further your career. Take no risk where your personal health is concerned at this time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Figure out a practical way that could give you added income in the future. Follow the advice of a financial expert and you will have more success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be sure to keep promises made during this week. Sidestep one who has an eye on your assets or you will be left with a hole in your pocket.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) An associate who is upset may try to pressure you into something that is not to your liking this morning. Put your foot down and resist or trouble follows.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Attend to important duties early and show your efficiency in handling them. Show your increased loyalty to the one you love and benefits will abound.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Investigating a new outlet now could be profitable to you in the future. Contact higher ups and gain everything you need for that special project.

Birtstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli







## U.S. Open

# Agassi struggles to victory; Medvedev crashes to unranked Sargisian

NEW YORK (AFP) — World number one Andre Agassi struggled through a horrendous second-round showing at the U.S. Open here Thursday, barely averting one of the most stunning upsets in tennis history.

The reigning U.S. and Australian Open champion overcame 67 unforced errors to defeat Spain's Alex Corretja 5-7, 6-3, 5-7, 6-0, 6-2. Agassi barely beat 28th-ranked right-hander who had gone 0-4 on hardcourts this year and 0-3 at the Open until this week.

"He got on top of me early, got the confidence and I'm not playing by best tennis and you know you're in for a long night," Agassi said.

"Nothing is going to keep me from winning the championship."

Meanwhile Sargis Sargisian, the unranked Armenian who was invited to compete at the United States Open after winning the NCAA University title, came back from being two sets down to upset sixteenth seed Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine. Sargisian, the Open's first Armenian player, ousted former Soviet Union rival Medvedev 1-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, spoiling the Ukraine's 21st birthday.

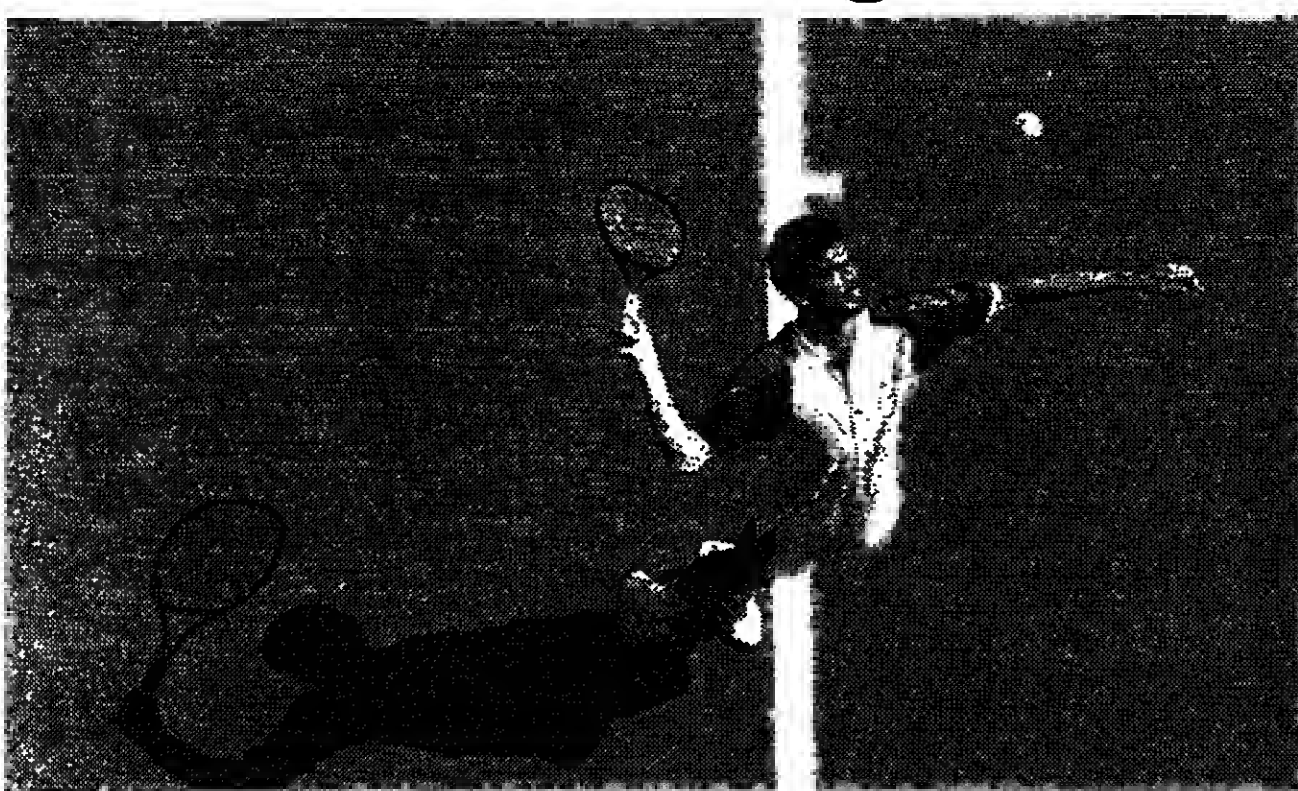
Sargisian will now play American Jared Palmer in the third round.

Agassi won his 22nd consecutive match, one shy of his longest career streak, despite failing on 17 of the 27 break opportunities before a frenzied crowd of nearly 20,000 at the \$9.86 million Grand Slam event.

Corretja, whose only ATP title in four seasons came last year in Buenos Aires, was cramping throughout the final two sets and needed treatment after the match.

But he nearly sent Agassi packing. No top seed had been ousted this early since Stefan Edberg lost his 1990 opener to Alexander Volkov. No defending champion had gone out so fast since Edberg lost in the second round in 1993.

So what should be Agassi's reward for surviving his mistake-filled match but a



Eleventh seed Sergi Bruguera, from Spain serves to opponent Daniel Vacek, from the Czech Republic during their 2nd round U.S. Open match in New York on Thursday (Reuters photo)

third-round showdown against Edberg, the former number one from Sweden who is 3-5 against Agassi. The two have never met in a Grand Slam event.

"We've had some battles," Agassi said. "It should be a great match."

Agassi double faulted on Corretja's first break point of the fifth set to fall behind 2-0, but took command from there to raise his record in five-set matches to 8-11.

"You can't look at the record," Agassi said. "Over the past year, I have been a different player."

The Agassi who won here last year and replaced Pete Sampras atop the ATP rankings was very different from the Agassi who played Corretja.

In the first set, Corretja saved three break points in the seventh game and both players held serve until Agassi's first set point. Agassi committed 21 unforced errors in the set.

The two then battled

through nine deuces in the first game of the second set before Agassi missed an overhead smash to let Corretja hold serve.

"Do you know how hard I have to play for him to get away with this (stuff)?" Agassi yelled in the second set.

Curses came more and more often, as if Agassi thought they might somehow restore his missing form.

Two more unforced errors cost Agassi a break in the opening game of the third set. He answered with a break in the 10th game, but Corretja broke back to win the set on errant Agassi volleys. He had 55 unforced errors through three sets.

The real Agassi awakened in the fourth set.

Symbolic of his turnaround was a baseline winner Agassi smashed over his left shoulder while running away from the net. Agassi took a bow while the crowd roared after the stunning shot in the final game of the fourth set.

"My ears started ringing the crowd was so loud," Agassi said. "It was like a rock concert. That's what I will always remember about this match long after my career is over."

Edberg's position is similar to that endured last year by Agassi, who was unseeded here after a slump but won the title.

"It's a tough position to find yourself in, but it's not the end of the world," Edberg said. "It's similar to Agassi last year. That makes you believe there is always a way back."

Monica Seles knows that path. Playing her first Grand Slam since being stabbed in 1993, she beat American Erika De Lone 6-2, 6-1 in 58 minutes.

"It was a good match," Seles said.

"There were four or five break points and I had to work hard to win every point. I was trying to concentrate and trying to relax out there."

Seles is 8-0 since her 27-month layoff and has won 16 straight U.S. Open and Grand Slam matches. Her next opponent is 28th-ranked Yone Kamio of Japan, hoping for more than a cameo after beating Marianne Werdel Witmeyer 6-2, 6-7 (0/7), 6-3.

"I'm very excited to play Monica," Kamio said. "She is very strong but a little bit slower."

Edberg said, "He is in a position I have been in for some years. He is supposed to win. He will feel a little bit of the pressure, that's for sure."



Jordan's Hani Bisharat goes over a hurdle while Syria's Siham Eselli receives her trophy (Photo by Abdullah Aynub)



## Syria's Asali wins Grand Prix in RJ Equestrian Tournament

By Aileen Bannayan and Mune'm Fakhoury

AMMAN — Syria's Khaled Abu Asali Friday concluded his participation on a high note by winning the Grand Prix of the 2nd annual Royal Jordanian Equestrian Tournament.

Sweden's Jens Fredrickson came in second and Jordan's Shireen Al Rasekh finished third.

The competition was held at the Arabian Horse Club under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, president of the Jordan Equestrian Federation.

In the 115 centimetre hurdle Amra Competition Shadi Ghreih of Syria took first and second places on two different mounts while Feder Fredrickson of Sweden came in third.

Jordan's Ibrahim Bisharat was fourth and teammate Suzan Al Bakhrir fifth.

In the beat-the-clock 120 centimetre hurdle Dead Sea Competition Lebanon's Siham Eselli was first, Jordan's Hani Bisharat second, Syria's Aziz Mousa third, teammate Shadi Ghreih fourth and Jordan's Hani Bisharat fifth.

Earlier in the competition, Syria's Aziz Mousa won the Petra Award for the 110 centimetre hurdles and the Salt Award for recording the fastest time in covering the 120 centimetre hurdle track. Jordan's Hani Bisharat won the Wadi Rum Award for the 130 centimetre hurdles.

Over 50 participants from France, Holland, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Sweden and Jordan took part in the three-day competition.

## Al Wihdat lose to Iraqi champions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's Premier League soccer champions Al Wihdat Friday lost 3-1 to Iraqi champions Al Zawra' in the first round match of the Asian Clubs Championship. The second leg match will be played next Thursday in the Iraqi capital.

Al Wihdat took an early lead by new recruit Mune'm Abu Hantash but Al Zawra' quickly equalised and scored another two goals to seal their win and almost secure qualification as they will be playing among their home fans in their upcoming match.

## McCall aims for Tyson after Bruno

LONDON (AP) — It looks all too easy for Oliver McCall.

All he has to do is add his name to the list of world champions who have knocked out Frank Bruno and then look forward to a \$100 million showdown with Mike Tyson next spring.

"When I win this fight, Tyson is the No. 1 contender and I want Tyson," said McCall, who defends his WBC title against Bruno Saturday at Wembley Stadium.

He then plans to unify the title by winning the WBO, WBA and IBF crowns and the champion said he would be ashamed if he let Bruno spoil all that.

"He's going to do it make me look bad to have lost to someone with such low fighting skills," McCall said. "Realistically, if he had his way and could say that he beat Oliver McCall, what's he going to get out of it? I know now that he's going to get knocked out by the next person he fights."

Bruno, knocked out by

Tim Witherspoon in 1986. Tyson in '89 and Lennox Lewis in '93, believes this is his best chance.

"It's a miracle I'm even getting this chance. It's another miracle that McCall has come to London," said the 33-year-old Briton, who has knocked out 38 of the 39 fighters he has beaten. "It would be a sin to waste miracles."

Bruno has a big weight advantage over McCall, a sledgehammer right hand and he knows few people inside the stadium will be rooting for the American.

"I'm stronger, fitter, older, calm and collected, more focused than ever," he said. McCall reckons he will be easier to hit, too.

Bruno has gained a reputation in boxing as having no natural defences after he's been hit hard. Once he'd been hit by Witherspoon, Tyson and Lewis, he stayed there, as if waiting to be hit again.

"I'm going to punch until he falls," McCall said. "When the bell rings I am going at that man and he had better have something to stop me or he's gonna be flat on his back."

At Thursday's weigh in Bruno was 247 pounds, 10 ounces (112.322 kgs), while McCall tipped the scales at 234 pounds, 12 ounces (106.482 kgs).

The Brits, who call 14 pounds a stone, made a big thing about the difference in weight with Bruno repeating: "One stone. Oliver. one stone."

McCall was puzzled.

"How much is that?" the champion asked as he stepped off the scales.

"A stone? Why should I be worried about a stone? These are the stones that can overcome any stones," he said, raising up his two fists.

On the same card, Nigel Benn makes the eighth defence of his WBC super-middleweight title, facing Danny Ray Perez, a late replacement for former WBA champion Steve Little.

WBA light-heavyweight champion Virgil Hill makes a mandatory defence against Malawi-born Drake Thadzi of Canada.

## Swiss miss has no fear of burnout

NEW YORK (AFP) — While most children her age are playing in schoolyards, 14-year-old Martina Hingis finds herself battling the world's top tennis players at the U.S. Open without fear of burnout.

"Others have started at 13 and 14. I'm nothing special, nothing different," Hingis said. "I'm just doing what a lot of other people have done before."

Hingis advanced to the third round here with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory over eighth seed Magdalena Maleeva. She is the ninth girl to play in the U.S. Open before her 15th birthday, which for Hingis arrives September 30.

The WTA Tour's youngest player does not fear she will follow Jennifer Capriati's troubled example of a top player who fell into personal problems and was off the circuit by age 18.

"I'm Martina Hingis, not Jennifer Capriati," the Swiss miss said. "I'm from Europe, not the United States. It's not the same family. There just hasn't been the same kind of 'rehearsal' around me as there was around Capriati."

Hingis became the youngest junior champion ever at a Grand Slam event last year when she won at the French Open. She also won the Wimbledon junior crown and reached the U.S. Open junior final.

"Nor so much has changed, except I was playing the 200th ranked player and now I am playing number eight," Hingis said. "My game has improved and now I feel I have a chance against anyone in the world."

### Furnished Apartment For Rent

A newly-built ground floor apartment of an area of 260 square metres, consisting of three bedrooms, three bathrooms, sitting room, maid room, kitchen, salon, and dining area, garden, garage, new luxurious furniture. Suitable for businessmen and diplomats. Location: Al Rabia estate.

Please call tel 865817.

### APARTMENT FOR RENT IN ABDOUN

Near American Embassy, 2nd floor in new building of four apartments only. Consisting of 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, living room, 2 large salons, dining room, kitchen, garage, lift.

Please call Tel. 669314 from 8-10 am & 2-5 pm.

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1st class building, excellent location (4th Circle, Jabal Amman, overlooking Abdoun Valley). 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, sitting-dining area, kitchen, patio and small garden, storage, parking place, phone, independent central heating unit.

Tel: (679804 or 679798) then press extension 21 upon hearing the tone.  
Address: South of 4th Circle, Aqba Bin Nafir Street, Bld. No 43 (Residence Blue Pearl) Apt. No. 1.

### Three New Apartments For Rent or Sale Furnished or Unfurnished

Each consisting of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's room, central heating, 300 sq.m. Two of them ground floor with garage and garden, the third apartment is a second floor with elevator, telephone. Jabal Amman, 4th Circle, Sweitieh, Dair Ghbar and Rabieh.

Please contact telefax 614597

### FOR RENT

Unfurnished ground floors with garden in a prominent area of Jabal Amman, 4th Circle. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spacious salons, dining and sitting rooms, modern kitchen and a large terrace of a total area of 320 sq.m.

Location: 4th Circle, close to Kuwait Embassy.

Please call 674708

## JOB VACANCIES

The regional office of an international firm is seeking to fill the following positions:

- Executive Secretary**
  - Fluency in English
  - UK or US graduate
  - American of British nationality is preferred
  - Computer skills
  - 5 - 10 years experience
- Finance Accountant**
  - Qualifications required:
    - BSc. degree in finance from an accredited US or UK university
    - Computer skills
    - 2 - 5 years experience

The salary offered is commensurate with qualifications. Apply in confidence with certifications to:

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Amman Commercial Center, 8th Floor, Abdali  
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All applications will be handled with strict confidentiality.

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A leading company in the repair and remanufacture of radiators, heat exchangers, oil coolers, clutches and brakes, wishes to employ:

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As per the following conditions:

- Bachelor in mechanical engineering
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First floor with a garden and a separate entrance. It contains two bedrooms, salon, dining room, two bathrooms, two verandas, central heating, T.V. and telephone. Ready for annual rent. Location: Amman, Shmeisani, opposite the European Community mission.

Tel: 698093 between 9 a.m. - 3 p.m and 4 - 9 p.m.

## FOR RENT

Furnished luxury apartments (different size) consists of 5 - 1 bedrooms, located in Amman's exclusive residential Al - Rabia area with very beautiful view. Suitable for diplomatic missions and foreign companies or big families. The building can be rented as an embassy.

Only direct contact is accepted, Tel 836700

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 634144	CINEMA TEL: 699236	CINEMA TEL: 677420	AMMOUN THEATRE TEL: 618274 - 618275	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre TEL: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's Tel: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA JIM CARREY & AMY YAZBEK THE MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	PLAZA Adel Imam & Yusra Birds of the Darkness (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD CONCORD "1" Adel Imam & Yusra Birds of the Darkness (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 CONCORD "2" SPECIALIST Shows: 3:30, 5:30,	MUSA HIJAZIN "Sumaa" IN Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 pm written & directed by Mohammed Shawaqfeh *****	Presents KABARET Abeer Issa Ghassan Mashini with Amer khamash, Khalil Jahmani, Mohammad Hussein and Issam Al Hanbali The theatre closes on Monday Performances start at 8:30 p.m.	AHLAN THEATRE presents (Ahlan Tatbee) Welcome Normalisation Shows start at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman



## Barcelona foreign legion take up their posts

MADRID (AFP) — Barcelona enter a new era on Sunday with an influx of foreign players to counter the threat of reinforced champions Real Madrid and Spanish "nearly-men" Deportivo La Coruna.

A total of \$100 million changed hands in player transfers in the close-season with Barcelona the biggest spenders, splashing out \$13 million.

Robert Prosinecki, Meho Kodro and Gheorghe Popescu are the new recruits at Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium to replace Hristo Stoichkov, Romario, Ronald Koeman and Russian Igor Korneyev.

Only Romania's Gheorghe Hagi, plagued by injury last year following a superb World Cup, is still there for their opening match on Sunday at Real Valladolid.

And what does coach Johan Cruyff think of his boys? On Croatian midfielder Prosinecki, Cruyff said: "He had a lot of success while he was young and he is going to prove he is not finished. The most important thing is the example he gives to the youngsters."

Kodro, of Bosnia-

Herzegovina, will be their no frills, out-and-out goal scorer.

"Kodro's philosophy can be summed up 'a goal is a goal,' I totally agree with that," Cruyff added.

And Romanian Popescu will be entrusted with a Koemanesque role in defence. "He has excellent defensive positioning, and often moves forward to help the strikers. People will love him," Cruyff added.

## SPANISH SOCCER

Despite the financial crisis of reigning champions Real Madrid, they still found the money to strengthen their squad.

Eager to make certain they were not one-season wonders, coach Jorge Valdano re-signed Argentinian marksman Juen Ensaider from European Cup Winners' Cup champions Real Zaragoza for 600 million pesetas (\$5 million), three times what they sold him for a year earlier.

Colombian Freddy Rincon was also drafted in should fading powers of midfielder Michel fore restructuring in the middle of the park. Mad-

rid have an easy first match at promoted neighbours Rayo Vallecano.

Deportivo La Coruna, with no trophy in their club's history but second the last two seasons, have the ambition under new Welsh coach John Toshack to trouble the Barcelona/Real Madrid monopoly — Athletic Bilbao in 1984 were the last other club to become champions.

World champion Brazilian Bebeto has signed a contract

## Oman receive Asian soccer award

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Oman's national youth team took two of the Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) top monthly awards on Friday based on a giant-killing performance in the recent FIFA Under-17 World Championships in Ecuador.

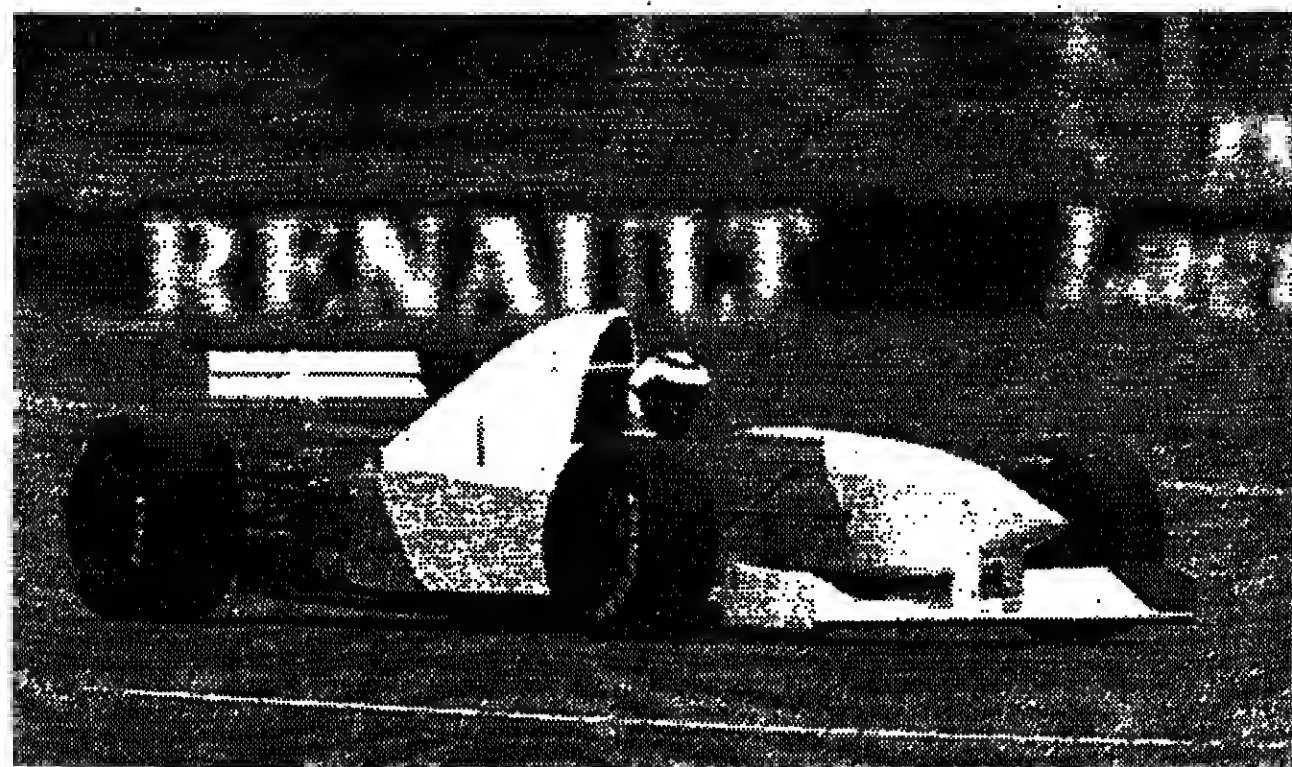
Oman won the AFC's team of the month award for August and Omani midfielder Mohamed Amor Al Kathiri was named player of the month, the 44-member regional governing body announced.

The coach of the month award was presented to South Korean Kim Kang-Nam, who steered his side to a sixth title at the Asian Schools Championships held recently in Brunei.

The Omanis stunned world football with their swift passage to the semi-finals of the FIFA tournament, beating Canada, Germany and defending champions Nigeria and drawing with Brazil.

The team lost 3-1 to eventual champions Ghana in the semifinals. "The young Omani players were a credit to their country and to Asian football, both on and off the field," said the AFC award citation.

Al Kathiri, 16, was named FIFA's player of the tournament, with a quarter of the votes cast, after finishing second among the goalscorers with five goals in six matches.



Four times world champion Alain Prost drives during a test session for McLaren at Silverstone August 31. The test was Prost's first in a Formula One car since the death of his

closest rival Ayrton Senna in the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix (Reuters photo)

## Berger to leave Ferrari in 1996

LONDON (R) — Austrian veteran Gerhard Berger will leave Ferrari at the end of this year and join Frenchman Jean Alesi in an all-new driving line-up at Benetton next season.

Benetton said on Friday.

Benetton said Berger, 36 last Sunday, had signed a two-year contract.

Berger and Alesi replace defending world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany and Johnny Herbert of Britain.

Schumacher is switching teams to join Ferrari while Herbert, winner of this year's British Grand Prix, is currently without a drive for 1996. He may join the Swiss Sauber-Ford team if German Heinz-Harald Frentzen leaves.

Berger said: "It was not an easy decision to part with Ferrari after the good times I've had at Maranello. However, Benetton Formula has shown incredible performance during the last few years and has offered me the most competitive package which I believe will allow me to win races next season. "I am also looking forward to the relaxed approach which everyone enjoys at Benetton and to teaming up again with my friend Jean."

Benetton chief Flavio Briatore said: "We are delighted to see Gerhard back with us. He won his first Grand Prix with Benetton in 1986 and we wish him many more wins next season."

Berger is the most experienced driver in Formula One motor racing this season.

He has driven in 174 Grands Prix and will celebrate his 175th race appearance in next weekend's Italian Grand Prix.

Ferrari's home race, which will witness an emotional farewell for him and Alesi from their Italian fans.

Berger has won nine races and claimed 11 pole positions, including one at last Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix, clocking the fastest race lap on 17 occasions in a colourful career.

His departure from Ferrari was a surprise to many Formula One observers as he had been with the Italian team for six years in two spells since 1987, split by three years with McLaren when he drove alongside the late Ayrton Senna.

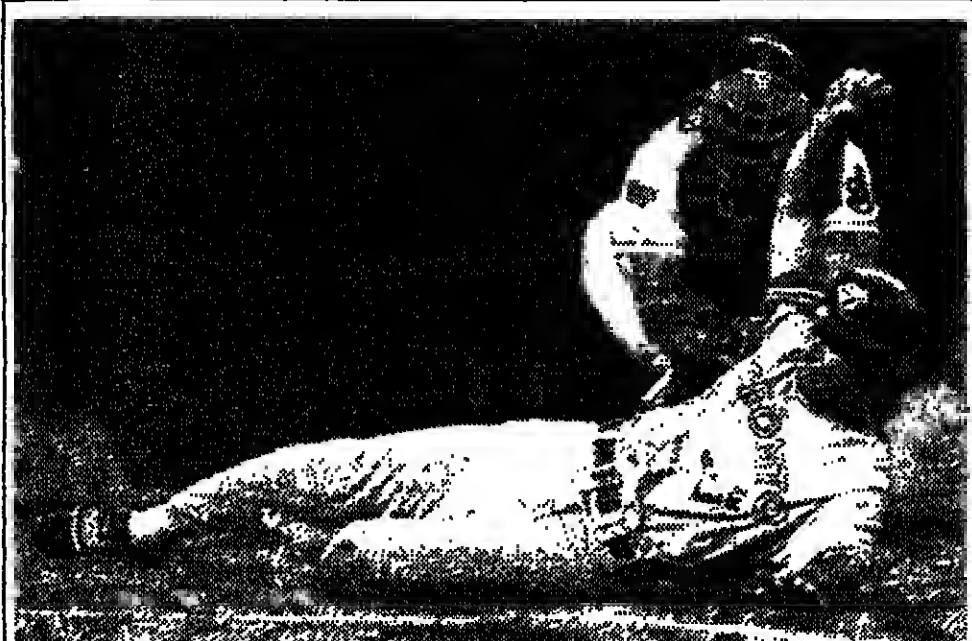
But Berger made it clear in recent weeks he did not wish to remain at Ferrari to be a number two driver to Schumacher, whose arrival at Maranello signals he will be the central force in the team next year.

The two had a running war of words in the German and Austrian press last week and also fell out earlier this year after the Brazilian Grand Prix when Schumacher was disqualified, but later reinstated, after using irregular fuel to win.

Several drivers, including four Britons, are now in search of vacancies and will be contenders for the seat at Ferrari vacated by Berger.

These include Briton David Coulthard, who will be replaced at Williams next year by Canadian Jacques Villeneuve, Herbert, Martin Brundle, who is currently with Ligier but is known to be popular with Schumacher as a team mate, Mark Blundell, whose future with McLaren has been obscured by the recent test sessions undertaken by former world champion Alain Prost of France, and Frentzen.

The McLaren line-up has also to be finalised and two vacancies appear to exist in their proposed three-man line-up alongside Finland's Mika Hakkinen.



Toronto Blue Jays designated hitter Paul Wednesbury. Molitor attempted to score Molitor is tagged out at home plate by from third base on a fly ball to center field Cleveland Indians catcher Tony Pena by teammate John Olerud (Reuters during third inning action in Cleveland on photo)

## Chinese swimmers test negative

BEIJING (AFP) — Swimming authorities said here Friday that 13 Chinese swimmers, including former world champions, had tested negative for performance-enhancing drugs.

The International Swimming Federation (FINA) conducted the tests between March 9 and June 26 on the swimmers, who included Lei Jing, Dai Gudong, Liu Limin and He Cihong. Xinhua quoted swimming chief Guo Qinglong as saying.

China first came under scrutiny after its swimmers carried off 12 of the 16 gold medals on offer at the World Championships in Rome last year.

Scandal broke out several weeks later when 11 Chinese athletes — including swimmers Lu Bin and Yang Aihua — tested positive for dope at the Asian Games.

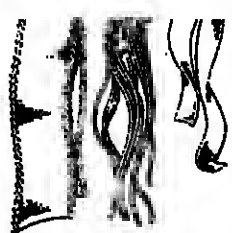
FINA launched an investigation in March, but cleared Chinese sporting authorities of blame, as well as refuting allegations of systematic and organised doping.

Meanwhile, the Beijing Municipal Sports Commission has introduced stiffer penalties for those found to have taken drugs, the Sports Daily reported on Friday.

The commission director, Wang Jingqing, announced the sports clubs and trainers could now be fined for doping, and not just the athletes, the paper said.

Under the new law, guilty athletes will now have to pay a fine of 10,000 yuan (\$1,200) and the cost of 10 drug tests (about \$1,700).

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- SENIOR FINANCIAL CONTROLLER (1) - REF. SFC**  
Candidates are required for the financial accounting and management reporting functions with budget and cost control, general ledger, financial statements, analysis, etc.  
Applicants should be university graduates as qualified accountants (ACA/ACMA/CPA or equivalent) with 10 years experience. They should be able to work independently, strong interpersonal skills and excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Arabic are key requirements.
- ACCOUNTANTS (2) - REF. ACC**  
University Graduates, with a minimum of 5 years experience.  
Computer knowledge, experience in accounting programs.  
Commercial accounting experience of minimum 5 years, in similar position.  
Fluency in both written and spoken English & Arabic is essential.
- PROJECT MANAGER (1) - REF. PME**  
Civil Engineer or Electrical Engineer with inter-city cable or pipeline construction experience.  
University graduate with minimum 10 years experience.  
Responsible for 500 Km. of cable construction, supervision and management.  
Previous responsibility should include a successfully completed multi-million dollar project, in the position of project manager.
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES (3) - REF. ES**  
4 Years University degree.  
Excellent command of English, written & spoken.  
Full knowledge of computer software's.  
Professional typing and dictation duties in both English & Arabic.  
Strong administrative and supervisory abilities.  
Strong managerial ability of all ongoing executive office work, with ability to work with and assist a wide range of individuals.

All the above positions require an excellent command of English. In addition, the following are an advantage:  
US or UK graduates is an advantage.  
International experience is an advantage.  
Other Languages is an advantage.

The compensation and benefits package is very rewarding, competitive applicants information will be dealt with utmost confidentiality.  
Kindly send your typed C.V. quoting ref. number no later than 07/09/1995 to Fax number 686125.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

## The United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East is recruiting at its headquarters in Amman:

Deputy Chief Programme Planning & Evaluation Office, Grade 18 (VN # HQ(A) 59/95). Fixed term three years (extendable). (Monthly take home pay about JD 813 plus dependency allowance; plus monthly provident fund JD165 payable at end of service; compulsory medical insurance).

Duties: A) Assists Chief, Programme Planning & Evaluation Office in coordinating the development of Agency plans and policies governing the operation of its education, health and relief programmes and the finance, staffing, supply, construction and other administrative services required to support these programmes, including: (1) reviewing existing plans and policies in relation to priorities outlined in latest financial plan; (2) liaising with Headquarters staff from various departments and field staff to determine problems or shortcomings in existing or proposed plans and policies as perceived from an operational point of view; (3) collating and documenting detailed plans covering operational requirements for field offices.

B) Assists in the establishment and review of performance indicators and other evaluation criteria for Agency programme plans and policies, including: (1) reviewing latest developments in the areas of operations research, cost effectiveness and business management and incorporating such developments into Agency criteria wherever relevant; (2) Working with Data Processing Division to develop changes to performance indicators and evaluation criteria.

C) Conducts organisational procedural, work measurement and cost effectiveness studies to ensure cost effective and efficient operations of a wide variety of large-scale education, health and relief programmes administered by the Agency, including: (1) review of current, and past operating budgets to determine expenditure trends; (2) preparation of comparative analysis of programme costs in the different fields of operation in relation to services delivered, staff complements, and other relevant considerations; (3) identification of problems or issues requiring further study; (4) development of terms of reference for studies in consultation with Chief, Programme Planning & Evaluation Office; (5) development of a procedural outline for studies, including methodologies to be employed in analysing data gathered; (6) assignment of specific areas of study to Programme Analysts 'A' and 'B', and review of their work results and proposals; (7) analysis of information and data collected; (8) preparation and presentation of reports, including recommendations for changes to Agency operational programmes.

D)



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## U.S. navy impounds tanker with Iraqi oil

BAHRAIN (AP) — U.S. Navy ships enforcing a U.N. embargo of Iraq have impounded a tanker suspected of trying to smuggle Iraqi oil, a spokesman said Friday. T. McCreary, spokesman of the U.S. Navy's fifth fleet, said the Saint Vincent-flagged Fair Sky was "turned over to a friendly nation in the region, which will determine its disposition along with the U.N. sanctions committee." He did not name the country to which the vessel had been diverted, or its original destination. Commander McCreary said the Fair Sky "came out of Iraqi waters and was believed to be carrying Iraqi diesel" when it was intercepted by U.S. navy sailors in mid-August. He said the navy had gathered "substantial evidence" that the tanker was carrying Iraqi oil before impounding it. There are fewer ships trying to bust the sanctions because of strict enforcement by the multinational U.N. maritime interception operation, said spokesman McCreary, whose fleet is part of that team. He said the Fair Sky was the first ship caught since May. "Last October we caught seven," he said.

## Conflicting court rulings on 'The Emigrant'

CAIRO (AP) — Two courts have issued conflicting rulings on the controversial film "The Emigrant" in cases that have come to symbolise the tug-of-war over freedom of expression in Egypt. One Cairo court ruled late Thursday that the film by Egyptian director Youssef Shahin should be banned, overturning a previous ruling that allowed the movie to be played in local theatres. A second court tossed out another case calling for a ban, saying it was up to the Ministry of Culture to decide if the film can be shown. The rulings are largely academic, since the film has finished its run in Cairo. But they could affect future showings as well as video cassette sales. "The Emigrant" tells the story of Ram, whose brothers drive him into exile. He travels to Egypt to learn agriculture, but gets entangled in the intrigue of a pharaonic household before he returns home. Conservative Muslims and Christians charged that the film depicted the life of the biblical Joseph and was an affront to their religious beliefs. Mr. Shahin denies this.

## Bomb explodes in Istanbul, injuring waiter

ISTANBUL (AP) — A bomb placed under a table in a restaurant here exploded early Friday after closing time and injured a waiter, police said. The bomb went off in the restaurant in a low-income neighbourhood at around 2:45 a.m., shattering windows and damaging tables and chairs, the police said. A 13-year-old waiter who slept in the restaurant was lightly injured. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. But various underground groups, including Kurdish guerrillas, leftist groups and Islamic militants have been active in this metropolis of 12 million for years.

## Watchdog slams attack on Lebanon press freedom

BEIRUT (AFP) — An international watchdog has slammed prison sentences imposed on three journalists by a Lebanese court, saying they posed a threat to press freedom in the country. The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) also said the sentences passed in June against Hassan Sabra, Ghazi Al Maqbur and Yusef Howayek were a violation of human rights. Mr. Sabra and Mr. Maqbur, the publisher and managing director of the pro-Syrian As Shiraa magazine, were sentenced to one month in prison each on June 25 by the publications court. They were accused of publishing on Nov. 25, 1991 an editorial called "Reform or Resign" which the court said was damaging to the head of state. Both have appealed and have not yet been jailed. Mr. Howayek of the opposition Al Diyar newspaper was sentenced three months on June 26 when the court found he had slandered a member of the parliament by suggesting he was involved in drug trafficking.

## 'Very fruitful' talks between Manila and Musa

DURBAN (AFP) — South African President Nelson Mandela on Friday described as "very fruitful" talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa at King's House, the president's official residence in the port city of Durban. Mr. Mandela said Egypt was noted as one of the most important countries in Africa and one with which South Africa aimed to maintain good bilateral relations. It is in South Africa's "interests" to keep a consolidated relation with the Egyptians "because they have the advantage of moving in the three important circles: the African, Muslim and Arab worlds." "Undoubtedly a country like that is of importance to the entire continent of Africa," South African Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo, who attended the meeting, said he was travelling to the Middle East later this month to observe the second round of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, in which Cairo has played an important role.

## Algerian, Portuguese win Qadhafi prize

PARIS (R) — Former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella and Portugal's ex-President Francisco Da Costa Gomes have received the "Qadhafi" Prize for Human Rights in Libya's capital Tripoli, the official Libyan news agency JANA said on Friday. JANA said Mr. Ben Bella and Da Costa Gomes received the prize at a ceremony to mark the 26th anniversary of Colonel Qadhafi's accession to power. The agency said Mr. Ben Bella, 79, got the prize for his role in Algeria's independence fight against France, and Mr. Da Costa Gomes, 81, for his role in overthrowing Portugal's military dictatorship in 1974. The prize is worth \$250,000.

## Cyprus loses world-renowned healer

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Magus of Strovolos, spiritual healer Stelios Arntshlis who attracted followers from around the world, has died of a brain hemorrhage at the age of 82. Also known as Daskalos (teacher in Greek), he held classes in the Strovolos suburb of the Cypriot capital twice a week and healing sessions on Thursday. His courses were attended by groups from Switzerland and from as far afield as South America, but Daskalos never accepted money for his classes nor sought publicity. He preached a mixture of Christianity and eastern mysticism, with a strong emphasis on reincarnation. Daskalos' teachings will live on in the videos and tapes made of the sessions in the back garden of a Strovolos house, as well as in the work of his daughter, Arntshlis, whether you believed in his powers or not. "One of the island's most fascinating personalities," said an old friend, journalist Andreas Hadjipapas. The retired civil servant and former friend of the island's political and religious leader Archbishop Makarios had been in a coma for several months and died last Sunday. The book "The Magus of Strovolos" by Kyriakos Markides, spread his reputation around the world.

## 3 Pakistanis beheaded in Mecca

RIYADH (AP) — Three Pakistani men convicted of heroin trafficking were executed Friday in Mecca, the state-run Saudi radio reported. Executions are usually carried out at a public square near a mosque after midday prayers. But in recent months, they have been also taking place on other days as well amid a sharp increase in the number of beheadings that has raised protests from human rights organisations. Last month Turkey protested the execution of four Turks for drug smuggling and appealed for clemency for some 20 others awaiting execution. The Saudis have indicated they will continue their policy of beheading narcotics traffickers. Some 140 people, mostly Asian and African drug smugglers, have been beheaded so far this year in Saudi Arabia. That is about three times the number executed in all of 1994.



Rescuers view the wreckage of a hooby-trapped vehicle that went off in the crowded Ounouni Square in Algeria's Bah Al Oued neighborhood on Thursday (AFP photo)

## Assad cannot be scared into peace — Mubarak

TEL AVIV (Agencies) —

Israel must not try to pressure Syria into concessions in Mideast peace talks by raising the "spectre" of a hard-liners' victory in Israel's 1996 elections, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published Friday.

Such attempts to speed up the stalled negotiations would only backfire, Mr. Mubarak told the Maariv daily.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad would rather stick with continued Israeli control over the Golan Heights than negotiate a withdrawal in stages which he fears might be frozen if Israel's hawkish Likud Party comes to power, Mr. Mubarak said.

"Don't scare Assad with the spectre of the Likud," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Mubarak said, "Assad would prefer to let the whole thing drop so that he could face his own people without apprehension."

"Likud opposes giving back any part of the Golan."

Israeli officials have said a peace treaty with Syria would have to be concluded by the end of the year, before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin begins his reelection campaign and has little room for making concessions on the Golan.

In a rare comment on Israeli politics, Mr. Mubarak suggested that he favoured a Rabin victory.

"My God, I hope peace comes before the Likud comes to power," Mr. Mubarak told Israel TV's Channel 2.

Mr. Mubarak predecessor, Anwar Sadat, signed a peace treaty in 1979 with Likud's Menachem Begin.

Mr. Mubarak said Friday that Begin, though stubborn, "showed flexibility and an ability to make a decision."

However, all peace efforts were frozen when Begin was

succeeded by Yitzhak Shamir.

Concerning Syria, Mr. Mubarak said Israel should drop a demand to establish an early warning station on the Golan after an Israeli troop withdrawal. In Damascus, the Israeli demand is seen as an attempt to "perpetuate the occupation," Mr. Mubarak told Maariv.

The Israel-Syria negotiations have been stalled for weeks, with Syria refusing to renew talks of military experts from both sides about Golan security arrangements after an Israeli pullback.

Maariv said Syria would only agree to a resumption of talks if Israel dropped a demand for an early warning station on the Golan.

However, Mr. Rabin apparently has resigned himself to a stalemate and is not willing to make any concessions to the Syrians, the Haaretz daily said Friday.

Mr. Rabin refuses to permit the renewal of meetings between the two countries' ambassadors until the military talks are back on track, Haaretz said.

Mr. Mubarak also advised Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to keep his expressed dream of a new Middle East to himself.

Maariv quoted Mr. Mubarak as telling his correspondent in Egypt that such talk raised fears among Arabs that Israel wants "a new Middle East to dominate us."

Mr. Peres often uses the phrase in speeches to describe his vision of a thriving region at peace and even published a book by that name in 1993 after signing Israel's peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Mubarak said: "Explain to me, what is a new

Middle East? If it's peace and cooperation, that's ok. But people say Israel wants to be the strongest state in the region and control the economy."

"Talk like this makes all the countries in the region afraid. The mutual trust gets lost," he said.

"Maybe you'll keep these ideas a bit to yourselves and not try to accelerate the peace? It's better to build trust rather than sow doubts about the future," Mr. Mubarak advised.

The U.S. State Department meanwhile confirmed that Washington had warned Syria that it will be held responsible for Palestinian threats against U.S. citizens and property.

Spokesman Nicholas Burns confirmed a report in the Washington Post Wednesday revealing that Secretary of State Warren Christopher had earlier this month asked the U.S. ambassador in Damascus to convey the message to the Syrians.

"We are confident that the message referred to in the newspaper article this morning has been received and understood by a variety of parties," Mr. Burns said.

"I'm not going to get into the details of our diplomatic exchanges, especially when a major newspaper has been able to produce a diplomatic message that was not intended to ... appear in that major newspaper," Mr. Burns said.

But I can say this — that we take very seriously any potential threat to American citizens anywhere. And we consider it important that any individual or group that may be tempted to take such actions understand fully the consequences of doing so," he said.

## Gunmen wound Ahabash leader after assassination of sheikh

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies)

A gunman opened fire in South Lebanon at a member of pro-Syrian Sunni Islamist group overnight seriously wounding him in the second attack targeting the faction in 24 hours, security sources said on Friday.

They said Jamil Shraideh, a Palestinian member of the ultra-religious Al Ahabash Association, was wounded when the gunman fired at him in 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp, a day after a religious leader in the movement was gunned down in Beirut.

The gunman first hurled a hand grenade into Shraideh's shop in 'Ain Al Hilweh, near the port of Sidon, before opening fire from his sub-machinegun, the security sources said.

Two other people were wounded in the attack which took place at around midnight, the sources added.

On Thursday, masked gunmen in Beirut killed the head of the rapidly-growing Ahabash movement, Sheikh Nizar Al Halabi, in Lebanon's first political assassination in more than a year.

Two suspects have been arrested in the killing as a hitherto unknown group claimed responsibility for the assassination, which served a blow to post-civil war stability in Lebanon.

Sources close to the In-

terior Ministry said Friday

the two suspects were Lebanese men. They were apprehended in Beirut hours after Halabi was gunned down by masked assassins as he left his home to go to work Thursday morning.

Halabi's 12-year-old son, Bilal, a driver and a bodyguard were wounded in the attack. The attackers fled in a white Mercedes-Benz escorted by a red motorcycle.

The sources, speaking in exchange for strict anonymity, refused to elaborate on the identity of the suspects or say where they were arrested.

The independent Beirut newspaper Al Nahar said an anonymous caller claimed Thursday night that the "Usama Kassass organisation was responsible for the assassination of Sheikh Al Halabi."

The caller hung up after the terse remark, refusing to answer any questions about the self-styled group's affiliation and motive.

The sources, however, said Kassass may have been an activist of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The group, which has few affiliates in Lebanon, had gone underground after the Syrian army rolled into Lebanon in 1976 to smother the Lebanese civil war.

Halabi headed the Islamic Charitable Association, an organisation bankrolling the

## League to monitor Algerian elections

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid will go to Algeria next week to discuss the league's participation in the supervision of upcoming presidential elections there, an official said Friday.

"It will be the first time that the Arab League has participated in the supervision of presidential elections," a league official said.

The Algerian government has also asked the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to participate in the monitoring of the presidential election, scheduled for Nov. 16.

Dr. Abdul Meguid will begin a three-day visit to Algeria on Tuesday and meet with Algerian President Lamine Zeroual and other senior officials.

The league official added the organisation had been asked by the Algerian government in July to help monitor the elections. The Arab League accepted "out of its concern to consolidate the constitutional legality in that country."

Algerian leaders pledged Friday to press ahead with presidential elections despite an escalating campaign of violence by militants who have vowed to stop the poll.

A suicide bomber struck Thursday in Algiers killing at least nine people and wounding more than 100 in an attack on the national police headquarters.

It was the latest in a rash of

attacks which have left a trail of carnage in Algeria as militants step up their fight against the country's military-backed government.

Algerian Radio said Friday two men drove a car packed with 100 kilograms of explosives towards the direction Generale de la Surete Nationale in the capital's Mohammad Ounouri square.

But police fired at them and threw a grenade, forcing them to change direction towards the Lycee Abdul Kader school.

The bomb later went off in the Muslim fundamentalist stronghold of Bab Al Oued, killing nine people and wounding 104.

The final circumstances of the explosion were not clear. It was not clear if the men themselves detonated the bomb, or if they were among the nine killed.

The Algerian state-run radio on Friday quoted health authorities as saying that 88 of the wounded have gone home after being treated at hospitals.

President Zeroual, who rushed to the scene immediately after the attack, blamed "terrorists."

The attack was the latest in a growing number of car-bombs blamed by the authorities on Islamic fundamentalists.

More than 30,000 people are estimated to have been killed in violence during the country's three-year old civil strife.

## Ethiopia says Sudan refusing to hand over Mubarak assailants

ADDIS ABABA (R) —

Ethiopia on Friday accused the Sudanese government of sheltering three Egyptian gunmen wanted for attempting to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in June and announced a series of measures against Khartoum.

A Foreign Ministry statement said the Khartoum government was sheltering Egyptians Mustafa Hamza, Izzat Yassin and Hussein Ahmad, alias Siraji, who left Ethiopia after the assassination attempt on June 26.

Mr. Mubarak escaped unhurt when gunmen fired on his limousine as he arrived for an Organisation of African Unity summit. Friday's statement was the first time Ethiopia had linked Khartoum to the attack.

The statement said the

government had ordered that all non-governmental aid organisations linked to Sudan must cease operations and their Sudanese staff should leave within a week.

It said the government also ordered the closure of the Sudanese consulate in Gambella, western Ethiopia, and banned the national carrier Sudan Airways from flying to Addis Ababa from Friday.

It added Ethiopia had ordered that the number of Sudanese diplomats at their embassy in Addis Ababa should not exceed four and any others had to leave the country within a week.

Ethiopia also said it had decided to cut the number of its diplomats in Khartoum and had barred the national carrier Ethiopian Airlines from flying to the Sudanese capital from Friday.

## 32% of settlers ready to move in return for compensation -- poll

The Jerusalem Post

THIRTY-TWO per cent of settlers would be willing to leave their communities if offered "reasonable" compensation, while 26 per cent would stay in the settlements under any conditions, according to a Modi'in Ezerah survey commissioned by Peace Now.

The telephone survey, which studied settler attitudes toward their future, the peace process, and whether they would be willing to move, was conducted on August 17 among a representative sample of 419 Jews in the territories. The margin of error is 4.9 per cent.

Asked "if you would be willing to leave the settlement with your family for reasonable compensation," 15 per cent said they would "sorely" be willing, and another 17 per cent said they "think they would." By contrast, 59 per cent said either they would surely not, or do, not think they would be willing to leave for compensation.

The rest were either undecided or refused to answer. The poll found that willingness to leave is greater the further the settlements are from Jerusalem. In places such as Ariel, Emmanuel, Alfei Menashe, and Kiryat Arba.

Dr. Ella Heller, who carried out the survey, wrote that the settlers can be divided into 30 per cent who are considered "soft," whose motivations for moving to the territories were not ideological, and who would be willing to leave, and a hard core of 31 per cent who are ideologically motivated and will not be willing to leave for compensation. Everyone else falls somewhere in between.

Asked what they would do

"if your settlement will not be included in the state's boundaries in the final agreement with the Palestinians," 26 per cent said they would stay in the settlements under any conditions. 29 per cent said they will remain if the security remains in the hands of the IDF. 25 per cent would prefer moving within the Green Line. 8 per cent would move to another settlement in the territories, less than 1 per cent said they would leave the country, and the rest were not undecided.

Among the poll's other findings: Forty-seven per cent of the settlers said they live in the territories for economic or quality of life reasons, 36 per cent for religious or nationalistic reasons, and 15 per cent for a combination of reasons.

A majority of the settlers, some 75 per cent believe that in five years they will be living in the same settlement they live in now, while 11 per cent think they will be living inside the Green Line, 5 per cent in another settlement, and less than 1 per cent abroad. The rest did not know.

Thirty-two per cent of the respondents believe their settlement will be annexed to Israel, while 7 per cent believe it will be evacuated, and they will receive compensation, as was done with Yamit. The majority, 44 per cent believe that their settlement will not be evacuated and that their security will remain in the hands of the IDF.

Twenty-five per cent of the settlers defined themselves "in general" as "supporting the peace process between Israel and the Arabs," compared with a national figure of 57 per cent. Opposed to the process are 38 per cent as compared to a 28 per cent nationwide figure.

## Francis Bacon's estate donates painting to settle estate tax

LONDON (AP) — The

estate of British artist Sir Francis Bacon settled a million-dollar debt with the taxman by donating over a painting for exhibit, officials said. "Study For A Portrait, 1991" will exhibit at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh, said Lord Lindsay, the minister responsible for arts in Scotland. The donation settled a £680,000 (\$1,088,000) inheritance tax debt incurred by Bacon's estate. The oil and pastel work, on a 78 inches (198 cm) by 58 inches (147 cm) canvas, depicts a man with a camera tripod. The Irish-born Bacon, who died in 1992 aged 83, was known for works that blurred the lines between reality and nightmare.

## Agassi leads Sampras in fashion war

NEW YORK (R) — Andre Agassi, the world's number one, is holding his rival, Pete Sampras, at bay both on and off the court. Besides overtaking friendly rival Sampras on the rankings court this spring, Agassi is also winning in the fashion wars with his new clothing line flying off the shelves at the U.S. Open, well ahead of the more conservative look endorsed by Sampras. "People want the clothes, the bandanna, even the shoes," said a salesman. "Agassi is ahead of Sampras, but he's not blowing him away." Agassi unveiled yet another new look at the U.S. Open with a brown and white striped shirt topping the baggy shorts. The top seller is the knee-length black shorts, which retail at \$45.00. A close second is the Agassi bandanna, or head-rag, offered in both black and white and costing \$12.00. No one is deterred by the prices. The full Agassi look — bandanna, shirt, shorts, black socks and shoes — could set you back over \$275. "People come here straight from the court and buy whatever they just saw Agassi wearing," said the salesman. "They just want to look exactly like Andre."

## Adventurer breaks 110-year-old sailing record

TIBURON, California (AP) —

American adventurer Steve Fossett, who earlier this year became the first person to cross the Pacific Ocean solo in a balloon, broke a 110-year-old trans-Pacific sailing record. Fossett, 51, and three crew members aboard his Trimaran Lakota sailed from Yokohama, Japan, to San Francisco Bay in 16 days, 16 hours and 23 minutes, knocking almost five days off the old Japan-San Francisco sailing record of 21-1/2 days set by the clipper ship James Stafford in 1885.

## L.A. Celebs come to the rescue

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

A suicidal man who handcuffed himself before plunging off a pier was rescued by Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss, pop star Michael Jackson's plastic surgeon and a local doctor. The incident occurred on the Santa Monica pier, where Fleiss, Dr. Steve Hoefflin, who transformed Jackson's features, and KNBC-TV medical reporter Dr. Bruce Hensel had been attending a function. They were walking on the pier when they heard a splash and saw a man, who had made the 15-metre jump. Hoefflin jumped into the water while Fleiss and Hensel called the 911 emergency number.